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MAGAZINE
Meet Eddie Izzard,
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stand-up comic
PLUS
The Rocky Horror Picture Show,
the No. 1 cult movie, page 29



WEEKEND
How to be the
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person ever
PLUS
Skiing - is North America
better than the Alps? p 21



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PLUS
Norman Wisdom's comic
life on the road, page 10



THE TIMES

No. 65,398

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14 1995

FBI-style squad to combat crime

Major rallies party for 'the real fight'

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR widened the political divide with Tony Blair over education, crime and the economy yesterday as he rallied the Tories and put them on a war footing for a general election in which he promised that they could achieve the final defeat of socialism.

The Prime Minister used his speech to the Tory conference in Blackpool to mark out the election battleground with a series of announcements designed to emphasise his party's distinctive appeal and the main differences between himself and Labour.

But he also strongly reaffirmed the Tories' claim to be the one-nation party, attempting to reassure MPs and ministers who fear the party is drifting too far to the right. Mr Major was in effect telling a party shaken by the defection of Alan Howarth to Labour that he does not intend to forsake the centre ground. Conservatives, he declared, were "united, healed, renewed and thirsting for the real fight with Labour".

Activists were heartened as Mr Major announced a crusade against crime on the streets, with 5,000 additional police, 10,000 more closed-circuit TV cameras and a new national crime squad after the style of the FBI and assisted for the first time by MI5.

Along with the tough new sentencing regime announced by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, on Thurs-



Major theme: "united, healed, renewed"

day, Mr Major was trying to puncture Labour's claim at its conference last week that it is now the party of law and order.

On education he revealed a vivid contrast with Labour. Last week Mr Blair's party confirmed its intention to scrap the assisted places scheme, under which children from poor families are helped to go to private schools. Mr Major announced a £110 million plan to double the extent of the scheme so that it could help up to 70,000 children. The Prime Minister also promised more freedoms for schools to become specialist or religious, and repeated his

objective that all schools should eventually become grant-maintained.

But it was on the economy, and particularly on taxes, that Mr Major tried hardest to highlight the differences between the parties. He promised that income tax, inheritance tax and capital gains tax would all come down, with the last two eventually being scrapped altogether.

He said that high spending and high taxes were no longer an option, and he made plain that he wants to encourage investment and wealth creation. His aim is to achieve the lowest tax burden among the main European economies with low corporate and personal tax rates.

The central theme of the speech was that only the Tories have the economic policies to take Britain through to the millennium, and to help it to become what he called the "unrivalled enterprise centre of Europe".

Mr Major declared that, if his aims of competing with America, Japan and the Pacific Basin were to be achieved, "high spending and high taxes are no longer an option. If the state spends too much it taxes too much. In the recession we had to put taxes up to protect the vulnerable. Now the recession continued on page 2, col 3

Matthew Parris, page 2
Conference, pages 10 and 11
Leading article and Letters, page 21



Professor Rotblat yesterday. "I went for a walk because I had to think about it and what it meant. I walked for three-quarters of an hour."

Nobel for British anti-nuclear campaigner

By Nick Nuttall and Nigel Hawkes

A POLISH-BORN British physicist who kept a link open between nuclear scientists from East and West during the Cold War, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday.

The award to Professor Joseph Rotblat, 86, of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, was made partly in protest against France's decision to resume nuclear testing.

Francis Sejersted, chairman of the Nobel Peace committee, said: "The specific message to the French is a protest against the nuclear tests, as it is a protest against nuclear tests in

general and nuclear armaments in general." Professor Rotblat is Britain's first winner of the prize for 15 years. "It came completely unexpectedly," he said. "I read today that the people who are going to get it were the Prime Minister and the former Prime Minister of Ireland. All these big names and I thought 'where do I come in?' No one has ever heard of me."

Professor Rotblat said he had heard of the award in a call at 10.15 yesterday morning. "A telephone call came from somebody from the Nobel committee telling me not to mention it to anybody until 11

o'clock, when it would be officially announced. Then I went for a walk because I felt I had to think about it and what it meant."

"I was going to go to the British Museum (opposite his office in Great Russell Street), but there were too many people there so I just walked the streets for three-quarters of an hour."

Professor Rotblat also took the opportunity to criticise the French yesterday. Their tests, he said, had put the nuclear issue back on the agenda. "People are talking about it again. They do not want tests. And because of this strong

protest, President Chirac felt obliged to say, 'as soon as we finish these tests we will have a test ban treaty', which he has not said before."

A physicist who moved to Britain from Poland in the late 1930s, and later worked at Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico where the atom bomb was built, Professor Rotblat has come to symbolise the conscience of physicists over the weapon they created.

For most of the Cold War, the Pugwash Conferences, named after a small village in Nova Scotia where the first one was held in 1957, kept open an avenue of communi-

cation between East and West. Attended by scientists from both sides, they carried weight because their participants had real knowledge at a time when the subject was top secret.

The award, worth \$1 million (£630,000), was shared equally between Professor Rotblat and the Pugwash organisation, of which he is President. The Pugwash Secretary-General, Francesco Calogero, an Italian physics professor, said the organisation's current aim was a worldwide treaty completely banning nuclear tests. The \$500,000 share would be a boost for "a very lean organisation".

VC holder misses news of £1,200 increase

By Lin Jenkins

JOHN MAJOR yesterday raised the payment to holders of the George Cross and the Victoria Cross from £100 a year to £1,300, but the old soldier at the VE-Day commemorations recalled by the Prime Minister spent the day on his smallholding in an Indian village unaware that it was he who prompted a change in the annuity for the bravest of the brave.

Havildar Umrao Singh, 75, who was awarded the VC while serving in the Indian army in Burma, now enjoys a peaceful retirement in Haryana State. However, the lack of telephones and facsimile machines in the remote north Indian village meant that the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association was unable to tell him that he had been mentioned in Mr Major's Blackpool speech. The Prime



Umrao Singh: presented to the Queen Mother

Minister told how Umrao Singh was about to be turned away from the official ceremony when a brigadier passing by recognised the medal pinned to his chest as the VC, the highest award for gallantry in the armed forces. He was led to his seat of honour on the platform and later met Mr Major and his wife and was presented to the Queen Mother among ten holders of the honour.

Didi Grahame, secretary to the association, said last night: "Umrao Singh is a fine upstanding man and an independent individual as they all are. No doubt he will hear all about it in good time, but for the moment he knows nothing."

Umrao Singh has twice

visited Britain this year with an Indian Government contingent. He took part in the VE Day commemorations and was among the 21 of 30 VC holders who served in the Second World War who took part in the Royal Tournament. He is flying in again to take part in an association reunion in London in two weeks.

He was awarded the Victoria Cross for an incident in December 1944 when, as Subedar-Major in the Royal Indian Artillery, he was in charge of a gun in an advanced section of his battery and repeatedly beat off enemy attacks.

"In the final assault on the objective, he struck down three of the enemy in hand-to-hand fighting and later, when found exhausted and wounded beside his gun there were ten of the enemy lying dead around him. The gun was still in working order and was in action again that day," the account of deed reads.

Mrs Grahame said all the association members thought it was extremely nice that they had been remembered and their annuity increased. William Reid, 73, who won the VC as a young flight lieutenant when he was badly wounded by enemy fire over The Netherlands, but carried on to drop his bombs on Düsseldorf with blood freezing on his face, said: "It is marvellous. A lot of the Gurkhas and Indian people are living in penury."

Leeson sells life story for £450,000

By Dominic Kennedy

NICHOLAS LEESON, the trader blamed for the £860-million collapse of Britain's oldest merchant bank, has sold his life story for £450,000. The money will go towards paying his legal fees.

Mr Leeson's biography was bought at the Frankfurt Book Fair, close to Höchst prison where the former dealer in derivatives for Barings Bank is fighting extradition to Singapore.

The worldwide English language rights have been secured by Little Brown UK. Philippa Harrison, the managing director, said that Mr Leeson named names and that a number of people were likely to find the book embarrassing, adding: "It hasn't been read by lawyers yet."

A German court has ruled that the Briton can be extradited to Singapore on charges of fraud and forgery. An appeal is expected.

Mr Leeson has engaged a lawyer in Frankfurt and another is being instructed in Singapore. The money will be paid in stages, it is understood. Some will be handed over on the signing of the deal, more on delivery of the manuscript. Publication is expected at the end of any trial. The book is being written with Edward Whitley, a journalist and former merchant banker.

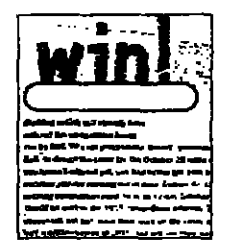
Anne McElroy, page 20

Why Britain's newest Shakespearean star is spurning Hollywood

News, page 9



Design 1015's cover and win 15 minutes on BBC TV's Smart 1015, page 3



PLUS
What the Lloyds-TSB merger means
Weekend Money, page 29

Sales of The Times in September were 681,638, up 74,495 on a year ago — an increase of 12.3 per cent, the highest of any national newspaper

Indian summer set to continue

The Indian summer is set to continue until the middle of next week with temperatures around 21C to 23C — just over 70F — in most parts of the country.

The temperature reached that level yesterday for the sixth successive day, the longest such run since October 1969, and if the warm spell continues for another six days the record set in 1921 will be broken.

London and Jersey were the warmest places yesterday at 22C (72F).

Forecast, page 24

Neo-Nazis given heavy sentences

Hefty prison sentences were imposed yesterday on four German neo-Nazi sympathisers who set ablaze a Turkish home in the steel city of Solingen, killing five women and girls. The three younger defendants were sentenced to ten years in a youth prison. The oldest was sentenced to 15 years in jail. In Germany, the trial has gained something of the controversy of the O. J. Simpson case. Page 12

Shares near record

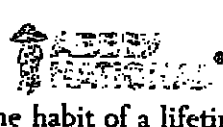
Shares came within a whisker of their record level yesterday as dealers predicted further takeovers following the Lloyds and TSB merger. The FT 100 index, which rose nearly points on Thursday, jumped a further 44.2 to 3568, two points short of its record of 3570.813. Page 25

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WEATHER 24
CROSSWORD 24
COURT & SOCIAL 22

LETTERS 21
OBITUARIES 23
SIMON JENKINS 20

BUSINESS NEWS 25-28
WEEKEND MONEY 29-39
SPORT 42-48

GARDENING: WEEKENDS
BOOKS: WEEKEND 6-8
TRAVEL: WEEKEND 16-21

THE TIMES ON MONDAY

13 PAGES OF
TIMES SPORT

HEAD TO HEAD

Can Els retain his crown as world matchplay champion? John Hopkins and David Miller report from Wentworth



MATTHEW PARRIS ON MONDAY

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SCIENCE

The race to stop the side-effects of aspirin

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No hard felines as Humphrey steals the limelight

THE speech was over. John Major left the platform. Waves of rapturous applause finally died. With this, three party leaders' autumn performances were history. We could look back and judge. Who was the winner of the 1995 conference season?

No contest. Humphrey the Cat has been the only personality to draw cheers across the political spectrum. From every podium this year — in Glasgow, Brighton and Blackpool — leading politicians claimed him as an ally.

Last week, Humphrey was pictured by John Prescott as having to be dragged, spitting back through the Downing Street cat-flap as "the only cat to have rejoined a sinking ship". Yesterday the

PM asked us to imagine Humphrey's horror as Labour's plans for the economy were run past this most numerate of cats for appraisal. Apparently the feline economist did the sums and made a bolt for it.

The story delighted Mr Major's audience. But Humphrey was only one of a supporting cast of celebrities in whose reflected glory he yesterday basked. Also mentioned were Norma, a goldfish and the Baroness Thatcher. The goldfish drew the most applause.

There was a section, though for the women in Major's life. "And there's someone else who's always been there when the stakes were high," said the Prime Minister, rather warily



we thought. "She's here today, too..." A shiver of expectation swept the hall. Hooray! She was to make a second appearance after all! We sat back and prepared to sing *Happy Birthday Dear Maggie*... the spotlight fell on a demure-looking lady. Norma Major smiled and acknowledged the applause.

With a cat, two women and a goldfish behind him, John Major's speech could not now fail. In fact it proved a thumping success. If the rhetoric and argument fell just short of lending his party

wings, it certainly got their boots on. Many of us ended the speech still unsure whether the Tories can win the next election, but no longer in any doubt that they can put up a damn good fight.

Major contrived a winning combination of that shy, Princess Diana smile, and a bold, assured, stubborn tone, full of authority. The tone was new, the bond with ordinary members of his party stronger than ever: you could feel it in the hall. "A good speech from a good man," a lady near me whispered. I later heard pre-

cisely that phrase, separately, from two other representatives. It seems to have caught the mood.

Some speak of the week just past as signifying a lurch to the Right. The Home Secretary certainly did present some unusual proposals and the language on Europe was less compromising.

But beneath the headlines from the warriors of the Right you can find, if you want, a different picture. After a quiet speech, Gillian Shephard had only to smile to draw applause. Ian Lang's response to the industry debate came over no less powerfully for avoiding the "right wing" or "left wing". And William Hague proved there is life after being a 16-year-old sensation: at 34

he made a speech of such command that only a small effort of the imagination, or one big Cabinet post, is required to see him as leading from the Centre. Though the Prime Minister hates the term, it becomes possible to believe that there might be life in Majorism, even after Major.

Just before the Prime Minister spoke yesterday, a woman appealing for funds trilled: "Well, what a fantastic week we've had! Night after night of drama, fun and inspiration!" John Major's speech rescued that remark from the category of the completely absurd.

Major's speech, page 1
Conference, pages 10-11

Churches sing praises of God's chips

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

TRADITIONAL hymns such as *All things bright and beautiful* and *We plough the fields and scatter* have been ousted from a new book of songs for worship that thank God "for microchips, for oven chips, for computer chips."

Children will be offered songs that refer to God as a woman, rejoice in new technology and use choruses such as: "For ocean waves, for microwaves, for radio waves. We thank you Lord."

The anthology for hymns for the under-eights, *The Big Blue Planet and other songs for worship in God's world*, is being published next month by the Methodist Church. It is the fruit of representatives of all the main denominations, including the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches.

Camels, stables and donkeys, the usual substance of children's Christmas carols, are scarcely mentioned. Instead, one song begins with: "Riding in a car on the motorway" and another is set to the tune of *What shall we do with the drunken sailor?*

Some, such as *God, you hold me like a mother*, show evidence of political correctness, referring to God in terms of the female sex.

Although some contain more traditional lyrics, such as *Jubilate Deo, Let us praise*

the Lord our God and *The Lord is my shepherd*, others will lend weight to criticisms that contemporary hymns do not reflect the poetry of the English language. One carol contains the line: "Moo, moo, moo, said the old brown cow in the stable at Bethlehem."

Judy Jarvis, the book's editor, said that although lyrics thanking God for microchips and oven chips would amuse older generations raised on more traditional hymns, they will sit comfortably with today's primary school pupils.

The book was put together by a working party from the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, which was trying "to reflect the realities of children's lives today."

Mrs Jarvis said: "Children still enjoy singing traditional hymns and it is good for there to be a few that everyone can share. That ought to be part of children's experience. But it is important that we help them to have material they can identify with."

She said likening God to a mother in one hymn was an attempt "to recognise that the image of God as father is not always helpful, particularly for children who have not had a happy experience where their fathers are concerned".

Leading article, page 21



Baroness Thatcher celebrating her seventieth birthday at her London office yesterday with Sir Denis. The former Prime Minister made clear that she would carry on working. "Life comes one day at a time not one year at a time," Lady Thatcher said. "What would you do if you didn't work when you have been used to working all your

Baroness's birthday

life?" She said that she would be spending her birthday evening at a quiet family party with a few friends. Sir Denis said that his wife had received piles of presents.

Lady Thatcher said she had enjoyed listening to the speakers at this week's Conservative Party conference in Blackpool, particularly in the finance debate. "On television you cannot get the atmosphere. I thought it was most enthusiastic. The speakers from the floor in the financial debate were absolutely outstanding."

Major rallies Conservatives for 'the real fight'

Continued from page 1

is over, as soon as is prudent, we must get taxes down again."

The Prime Minister also promised a big increase to £1,300 a year in the annual payment to holders of the George Cross and the Victoria Cross. It is presently £100.

Judges criticised the reforms put forward by Mr Howard on Thursday. Yesterday Mr Major said: "The most effective eyes are the policeman's eyes. I want to make every street safe. Since 1979 we have recruited an extra 16,000 policemen, 500 in the last year alone. That's helpful, but not enough. So within this year's public expenditure

settlement we have found extra resources over the next three years to put not 500, but an extra 5,000 police officers on the beat."

Mr Major's address, delivered without an Autocue, was one of his most assured conference displays. Ministers said it showed a new authority and verve after his July leadership victory. He admitted his decision to resign and call a contest had been a risk, but a close friend said afterwards: "He is liberated; he is different."

The speech clearly left the Tory rank-and-file in much better heart than when they arrived at the conference. Although they still harbour many

doubts about his ability to win the election, many said he and his Cabinet had given them a message, and policies, to campaign on.

Mr Major performed a skillful balancing act on Europe, confirming the Government's gradual Euro-sceptic shift but in measured language designed to reassure those concerned over the harsh anti-Busells rhetoric of Michael Portillo earlier in the week. The Prime Minister said Britain had entered Europe for prosperity, for co-operation, for a louder voice in its affairs, "but we did not enter it for a new tier of government, we did not enter it for socialism through the back

door and we did not enter it for a federal Europe".

But he was conciliatory. "I'm for Europe, not against it. We must ask our partners to understand our thinking and we must understand theirs."

Mr Major's speech was punctuated by prolonged applause. One of the longest bursts came when he said: "Beat Labour one more time and we have beaten socialism out of this country for good."

Matthew Parris, page 2
Conference, pages 10 and 11
Leading article, page 21
Letters, page 21

Clinton acts over Ulster impasse

President Clinton is sending two top White House advisers to London tomorrow to try to engineer a breakthrough in the Northern Ireland peace process before his official visit late next month (Martin Fletcher writes).

Tony Lake, the President's National Security Adviser, and Nancy Soderberg, the senior aide who helped to craft Mr Clinton's support for Gerry Adams, will seek to break the impasse caused by Britain's refusal to begin all-party peace talks until the IRA starts decommissioning its weapons.

Drug expulsions

Six pupils were expelled from the independent Wisbech Grammar School in Cambridgeshire for possessing and supplying cannabis. Bob Repper, the headmaster, said five sixth-formers were found with the drug at a weekend study course in York and a sixth had supplied them.

Home service

Lord Home of the Hirsel, who died on Monday aged 92, will be buried today after a private service at St Mary and All Souls Church, Coldstream. There will be no address and 135 mourners are expected to attend. Memorial services are to be held in Edinburgh and London next month.

Cabbies win

Black-cab drivers in London won a legal challenge against a motorcycle passenger service called TaxiBike. The drivers' association told Wells Street Magistrates' Court that the firm had breached the terms of the 1968 Cab Act, which forbids the use of the word "taxi" by mini-cab firms.

Doctor jailed

A doctor who wrote hundreds of false prescriptions to satisfy his morphine addiction was jailed for 15 months yesterday at Snaresbrook Crown Court, London. German-born Dr Klaus Wagner, 37, of Stratford, east London, admitted obtaining drugs by deception and possessing drugs.

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Police break into house after tracing 999 call cut off before message was received

Husband missing after four in family murdered

By EDWARD GORMAN

POLICE were searching for a Moroccan-born designer last night after his English wife, her parents and baby daughter were stabbed to death in their north London home.

The bodies of Sophia Aderdour, 32, her 16-month-old daughter Amina, and her parents Vivien, 57, and John Trant, 71, were discovered on Thursday afternoon at the Tranter's elegant Victorian terrace home in Islington.

Police investigating the murders appealed yesterday for Ibrahim Aderdour, 37, the estranged husband of Sophia, to come forward. Ports and airports have been notified to look out for him. Detective Superintendent Derrick Dale, leading the inquiry, said: "I am very anxious to speak to Mr Aderdour. I don't know of his whereabouts. It is surprising he hasn't come forward. I can't say he does or doesn't know about it."

The killings have shocked the fashionable neighbourhood where the family had lived for years. The Tranter's, who were both travel guides on London tourist buses, were very active in the church their house overlooks.

They and their daughter and granddaughter were killed after what a family friend said was a noisy row at the house in Dagmar Terrace, off Upper Street.

Police were alerted by a 999

call that was cut off before the caller could speak. After tracing the call, officers broke in to the four-storey house to find the four bodies in the front.

They also found a knife, but could not say if it was the murder weapon.

Mr Dale said: "The baby was found between the grandmother and the mother. I don't know whether Mr Aderdour was involved or not. I don't want to prejudice any further proceedings or court cases that



The Tranter family home in Dagmar Terrace

may involve him. We are looking at every possibility at this stage."

He said Mr Aderdour, an unemployed designer, came to Britain in 1989 and married Mrs Aderdour the same year. The couple had been attempting to go through divorce proceedings. Mrs Aderdour, a midwife who worked at the special care baby unit at Guy's Hospital, had recently moved out of a flat she shared with her husband and had returned to live with her parents.

At the house yesterday a white plastic sheet hung across the window of the room where the bodies were found. Maria O'Leary, 22, and her boyfriend Leslie Prince, 33, were among several people who arrived with bunches of flowers. Mrs Aderdour had been their midwife when their premature baby was born 18 months ago.

Miss O'Leary said Mrs Aderdour was a kind, down-to-earth, gentle person who had also been a devoted mother to Amina. She had never lost touch with her after she had nursed their baby through the first five weeks of his life at the Whittington Hospital in north London.

"She was pregnant herself and she was looking after my little one," Miss O'Leary said. "Because I was having a premature baby I was really

frightened, but she talked me through it and made me feel at ease. She made me feel a lot better. Once he was born, she was there all the time for me."

Mr Prince said he had known the family for years. But he said he never met Mr Aderdour and he did not know there were problems in their marriage, although he knew Mrs Aderdour had refused her husband's request to go to live in Morocco.

"If there were some problems, they were the kind of family that never discussed them in public."

Another woman who took flowers said she had been a schoolfriend of Mrs Aderdour at St Mary's Primary in Islington. She had heard about the deaths on the news.

"I can't believe this has happened," she said. "The whole family were just so nice. We went to primary school together and I used to go over to their house to play. Even when I grew up her mother always remembered me and would say hello."

A neighbour said she knew Mr and Mrs Trant and their daughter well but had never met Mr Aderdour. "I was only chatting to the grandmother who was out with the baby just the other day - she seemed fine," the woman said. "She was only wondering what language the baby was going to talk."



Sophia Aderdour, who was divorcing her husband



Amina Aderdour



Vivien Trant



John Trant

Ex-soldier jailed for Tesco food blackmail

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE Tesco supermarket chain was forced to set up a promotional "club card" offer by a blackmailer who threatened to inject food with HIV-infected blood, a court was told yesterday.

Frank Riello, 50, a sales representative and former lance corporal in the Royal Army Medical Corps, was jailed for eight years by Northampton Crown Court after admitting the plot.

He first contaminated food at a Tesco store in Kettering, Northamptonshire, then demanded that Tesco set up a discount scheme based on a plastic card, which was to be encrypted with details of a bank account from which he could withdraw cash. He demanded a PIN, to be issued via coded entries in the personal columns of *The Times*.

Tesco launched the card in March. One of the first people to apply was Riello's wife, Valerie, 52, who used her real name and address, which later allowed police to trace her husband. He admitted blackmail. His wife denied the charges and the case against her was dismissed.

Tesco said last night that the fraudulent card issued to Riello was not the same as those now held by thousands of customers. He did not know at the time that the company was already planning to launch its Clubcard scheme. "It was pure coincidence," a spokesman said.

Gloucester case led to grim find in garden

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who strangled his wife with a piece of rope and buried her in their garden, where she lay for 16 years, was jailed for five years for manslaughter yesterday.

William Crowie, 57, subsequently married the family's teenage babysitter and they continued to live in the house he had shared with his wife.

Lincoln Crown Court was told that Crowie told his four children in June 1978 that their mother Jean, then 34, had walked out.

Peter Joyce, QC, for the prosecution, said police inquiries only began last year when a former neighbour, Denysa Edmonds, saw publicly about the discovery of bodies buried at the home of Frederick and Rosemary West in Gloucester. Mrs Edmonds remembered that Crowie, who was a keen gardener, had been digging in the garden of the family home in Coalville, Leicestershire, on the day his wife supposedly left him.

Police dug up the garden and the remains of Mrs Crowie, with the rope still round her neck, were found. Crowie, a lorry-driver, denied murder and his plea of guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility was accepted.

He wept as Mr Justice Judge, sentencing him, said he had caused a great deal of suffering. His children had grown up "thinking their mother just left them".

Lodger shared by Wests 'feared wife's jealousy'

By BILL FROST AND RICHARD DUCE

A FEMALE lover of both Rosemary and Frederick West went in fear of the couple in the days before she vanished from their home at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, a jury was told yesterday.

Shirley Robinson, 18, whose remains were found in the garden of Cromwell Street, was anxious because Mrs West had become jealous of her affair with her husband, by whom the teenager was eight months pregnant. Winchester Crown Court was told.

She had been sleeping in the Wests' bedroom but asked to move to the room of Elizabeth Brewer, another lodger. Mrs Brewer, who was 17 at the time, said yesterday: "She was becoming very emotional about Mr West, and she was frightened of the Wests. She wanted to keep away from them."

Mrs Brewer said that in about May 1978 she left Shirley in her room and when she returned it was locked and Shirley had gone. "Mr West said that she had left to visit relatives in Germany. The Wests seemed to be very happy. I was led to believe they were keeping in touch and she had had a baby, and the boy was called Barry. I was led to believe she was returning, and Mrs West said she was going to look after the baby to give Shirley a break."

Mrs Brewer admitted in cross-examination that she has been promised £10,000 by a newspaper for her story, and

at one stage had begun writing a book.

The jury also heard from Mrs Brewer's cousin, Jane Bayle, who had visited Cromwell Street. "Mr West was a bit of a story teller. He was a bit crude," she said. "Mrs West made me feel uninvited at times because she stared a lot and dressed like a child."

Kathleen Ryan told how she had visited the Wests' home with her sister, who was seeking a bed-sit. "There were lots of children and a blonde girl whom I knew as Shirley. She was very pregnant. Mr West said: 'This is my wife and this is my lover.' I just looked at my sister and thought, 'God, this is a bit weird.'"

Gillian Britt, a lodger at Cromwell Street, told the court that she had seen men, sometimes two or three at a time, entering a door at the house bearing the plaque "Rose Room". Mrs Britt said she frequently heard noises from the room and would sometimes try to drown them out with a radio. "There was thumping, crashing about and wails which I would describe as being of a sexual nature."

Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, said it was accepted that Mrs West had entertained men friends at the house.

Mrs West, 41, denies murdering nine girls and a young woman. The trial continues on Monday.

Anne McElvoy, page 20

Wife given 11 years for plot to kill PC

By EMMA WILKINS

A WOMAN who plotted to murder her policeman husband to claim a £100,000 insurance payout was jailed for 11 years yesterday. Yvonne Jones, 38, was led sobbing to the cells at the Old Bailey as her accomplices were sentenced for the attack on PC Nigel Jones.

Graham Keats, 33, who was said to be Mrs Jones's lover, was jailed for 13 years after being convicted of attempted murder while Adrian Watts, 22, received a five-year sentence after admitting grievous bodily harm. Watts, a security officer who was infatuated with Mrs Jones, was cleared of attempted murder.

Keats, from Dagenham, London, and Watts, from Elm Park, Essex, lured PC Jones to an alleyway in Hornchurch where they attacked him with a hammer and knife. PC Jones suffered a fractured skull from ten hammer blows, a 12in knife wound to his neck, and cuts to his wrists and face. He told the court: "All I could think of was my little girl, she was flashing before my eyes."

He was found after residents alarmed by the noise called police.

Mrs Jones, also from Elm Park, hatched the plot when her husband, a 33-year-old constable with the Metropolitan Police, said he had decided to cancel his life policy. The couple, who were married in 1986 and have an eight-year-old daughter, Billie-Jo, were considering divorce at the time, in December last year.

Mrs Jones tried to blame Keats and Watts for the plot and took other lovers while they were awaiting trial. Mrs Jones, who denied attempted murder, was also convicted of attempting to pervert the course of justice by trying to procure an alibi.

Sir Lawrence Verney, the Recorder of London, told Keats that he had inflicted ghastly injuries on PC Jones. "That you only faced an attempted murder - and not a murder charge - is extraordinarily fortunate and was not due to any act of yours." Nadine Ratford, representing Keats, said he had believed he

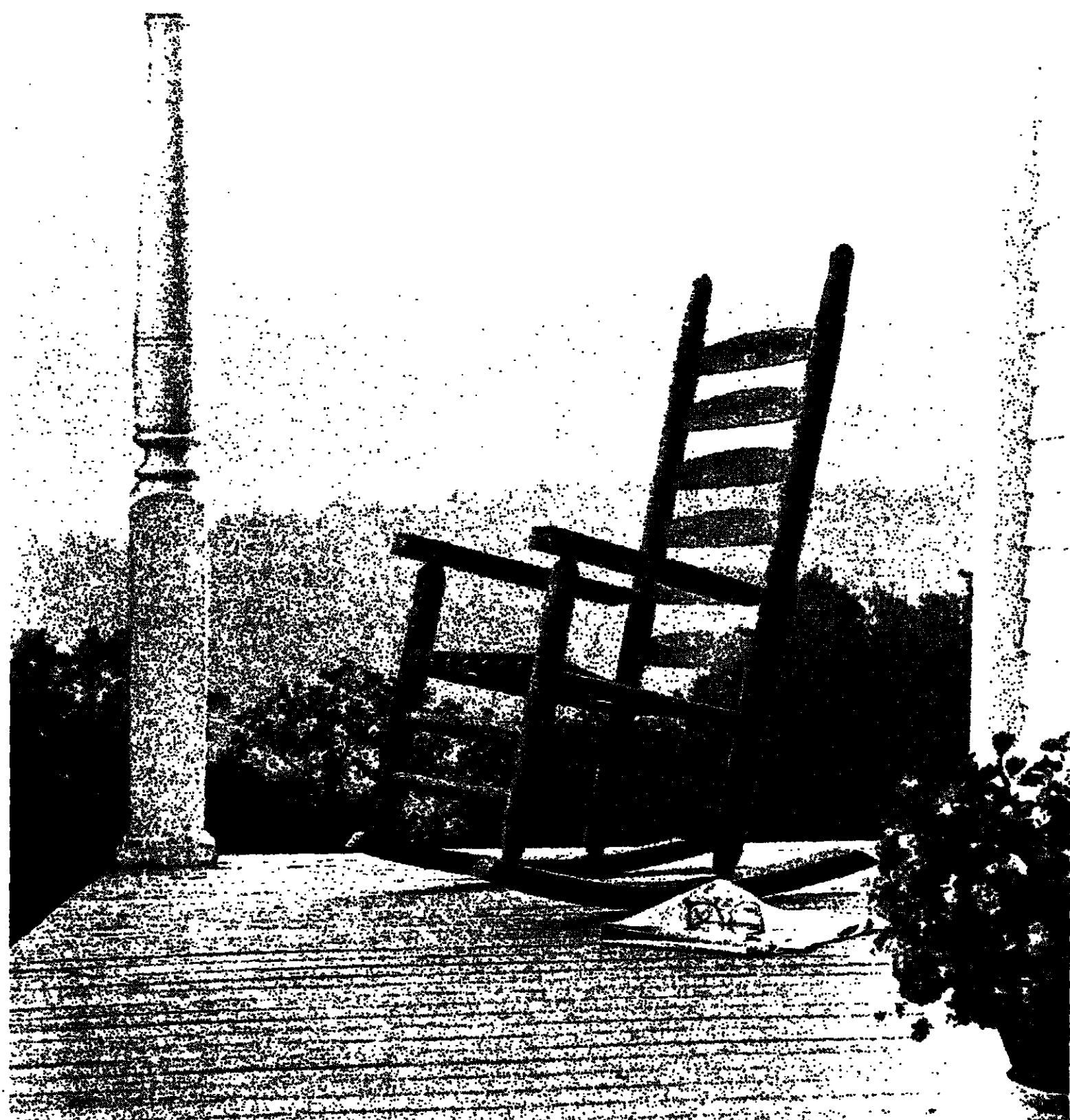


Yvonne Jones: took lovers



Nigel Jones: badly hurt

was going to spend the rest of his life with Mrs Jones. The couple had taken out a joint tenancy on a property where intimate photographs of them were found after the attack, the court was told.



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Broker who stole shares from charity is jailed

A STOCKBROKER who stole shares worth more than £3 million from the British Heart Foundation after fleeing his father of his life savings, was jailed for six years yesterday.

Jeremy Gray, 27, claimed he had been forced to commit the crimes because of death threats from drug-runners, the IRA and the Mafia. Staines Crown Court in east London was told that the story was a smokescreen.

Nigel Seed, for the prosecution, said Gray had stolen £55,000 stock belonging to his father before turning to the charity.

Passing sentence, Mr Recorder Sam Kaitkunda told the stockbroker he had used his position with the City firm of Panmure Gordon to breach the trust placed in him. Gray was convicted of theft, false accounting, producing a false accounting document and handling stolen goods. He was cleared of making a false statement to procure a passport.

The trial was told that Gray, of Clapham, south London, had relieved his father of his investments and transferred the proceeds to Luxembourg. The charity had holdings worth over £100 million with Panmure Gordon.

Gray was the only one of those involved to have been caught. "They all seem to have been part of a homosexual group based in Amsterdam," Mr Seed said.

'Soft' teenagers, deterred by Army's tough image, blamed for troop deficit

MoD may mobilise Gurkhas to ease infantry shortage

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Gurkhas may be asked to make up a shortfall in the Army caused by "soft" school-leavers declining the call to arms of recruitment officers.

The Army Board is considering using companies of the renowned Nepalese fighters to boost understrength infantry battalions, although the Gurkhas are among the hardest-hit victims of defence cuts.

Two thirds of the last significant body of foreign troops in the British forces are due to be made redundant under the Options for Change policy. It is not clear whether their decline, from 7,500 in 1991 to 4,000 today and a planned 2,500 by the turn of the century, could be reversed by the new idea.

The infantry, which accounts for 26 per cent of the Army, should have a trained strength of 24,000 but is 1,200 troops short, including 250 in the Parachute Regiment. Units of Gurkhas are already trained in parachute operations and form part of 5 Airborne Brigade.

There is concern in the Army that the Paras' reputation for toughness has hampered recruitment. An army

source said: "Kids today are too soft. Recruiters have noticed that school-leavers are less robust than their predecessors, of 30 years ago and that comes down to any number of factors. There is less rigorous PT in the schools, junk food and computer games."

"The Army is aware that it has to get the message through that you can have a worthwhile, fulfilling career in the Army and pick up a trade for when you leave. Other corps are recruited very well, in the Royal Engineers and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers you would have to go on a waiting list. You can pick up trades within those branches. Perhaps you can't in the infantry."

Under the proposal to call up the Gurkhas, a company of about 130 would be added to an understrength battalion to make a full fighting unit of 600 men. The Ministry of Defence said: "It is only an idea at the moment, but people think it is a good idea."

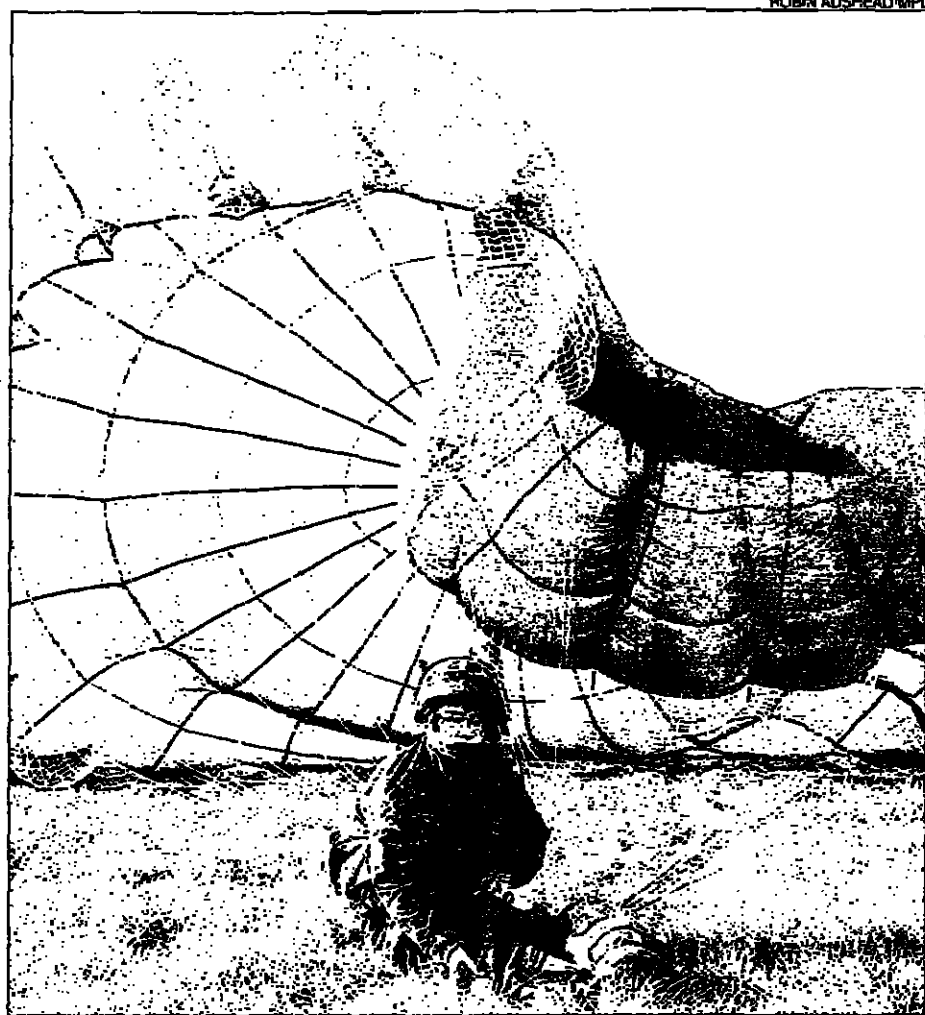
There is no reason why a company of Gurkhas could not support a battalion. We have a flexible Army these

days. The shortfall in the infantry has nothing to do with cuts under Options for Change. We still need intelligent school-leavers to join the Army and have young blood coming up through the system."

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Pearson, commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles, was "delighted" with the proposal. He said his troops had reacted with dignity to the army cuts: "They are very sad but they are very stoic and very loyal."

There is concern among Gurkhas, however, that they would not be able to wear their regimental cap badges and carry their kukri knives if moved to other regiments. Lt-Col Pearson said the Gurkhas "undoubtedly" were fitter than normal British recruits. "They come from an environment where they may have to walk an hour to school and an hour back."

The prospect of Gurkhas being used to make up for the shortfall was condemned by David Clark, Shadow Defence Secretary. "The Government's gross mismanagement of our Armed Forces has resulted in an unprecedented state of low



A Gurkha soldier during parachute training on Salisbury Plain yesterday

morale. We are in a position where we cannot even maintain the number required for our international commitments," he said.

The Army hopes to persuade soldiers to stay in the

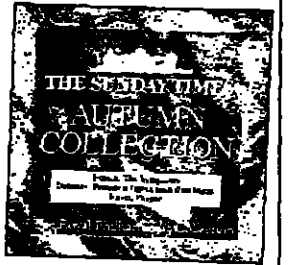
forces for an extra year by offering a £1,400 bonus. They will be offered the money to stay on after the minimum three years. Keeping their expertise in the Army. "We hope to retain a further 400 men in

this way," an army spokesman said.

"We must get the lower rank structures right now because in years to come we will not have the right experience up the ranks."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Sergeant Ian McKay died in 1982, Graham, centre, in 1989 and Neal this week

Falkland hero's parents mourn loss of third son

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE parents of Sergeant Ian McKay, who was awarded a posthumous VC for his heroism in the Falklands War, are preparing for the funeral next week of their third son. Ken McKay said yesterday: "I have lost three fine sons and the pain never gets any easier."

Ian, their eldest boy, died at 29 as he and fellow soldiers from The Parachute Regiment stormed an Argentinian bunker in the prelude to the final assault on Port Stanley. Seven years later, in 1989, their youngest son, Neal, 32, died from cystic fibrosis and this week the disease claimed their middle son, Graham, 39. Both brothers had suffered from the condition since childhood.

Mr McKay, 66, is divorced from Freda, 66, the boys'

mother, but both were together at Graham's bedside when he died at Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge, on Monday. They have no other children.

Mr McKay, from Rotherham, South Yorkshire, said: "In the end it was a blessing. He was in such a bad way. I don't know how a father comes to terms with the death of three sons - I don't think I ever will. The only thing I can do is get on with my life, but there isn't a day goes by that I don't think of them."

"The only thing that is some consolation is that doctors told us Neal and Graham would not live to school age because of their illness. They made nonsense of that and had full lives, but they were always living on borrowed time. We

knew this was always likely to happen, but it doesn't make it any easier to accept."

Sergeant Ian McKay died on Mount Longdon, overlooking Port Stanley, on June 12, 1982, winning one of only two VCs awarded during the war. He led an assault on a machinegun post that was pinning down fellow paratroopers on the ridge top.

Despite seeing his men either killed or wounded, he pressed home the attack, using grenades to clear the position. He was fatally wounded by one of the last shots fired at him and collapsed on the bunker he had just silenced. He was buried in the Falkland Islands, but five months after the war ended he was re-interred at a cemetery near The Parachute Regiment's base at Aldershot, Hampshire.

Neal McKay, a magistrates' court clerk, died in June 1989 after an unsuccessful heart and lung transplant. Graham, who was divorced with two children, also had a heart and lung transplant and was able to return to his job as a steelworker after the operation three years ago.

However, his health deteriorated over the past year and he was forced to give up work. He was admitted after a routine check-up last week.

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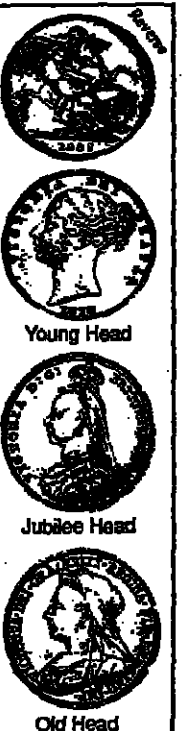
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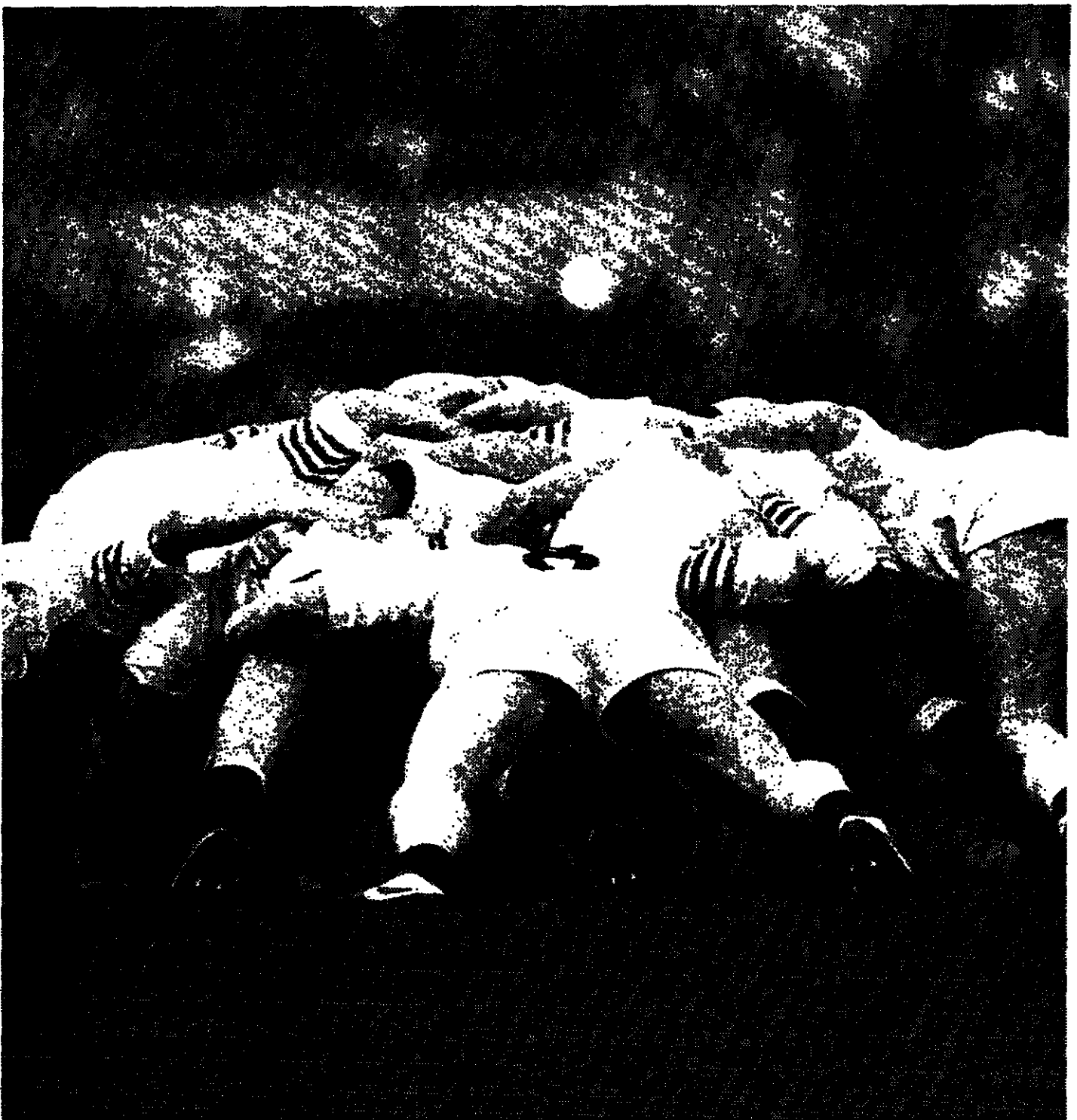
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Name dispute costs charity £500,000

Diabetes fund fears ruling will be fatal

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A CHARITY founded five years ago to help diabetics and to find a cure for the illness faces collapse after losing a High Court battle against a rival organisation. The Diabetic Society was yesterday ordered to pay costs estimated at over £500,000.

The dispute with the British Diabetic Association, which will drain the society's funds, was described as "most regrettable" by Mr Justice Walker in the High Court. He ordered the Diabetic Society to change its name because it was "deceptively similar" to the association, which was co-founded 61 years ago by the diabetic novelist H.G. Wells.

The society, which also runs the Diabetes Foundation to help to find a cure, must pay three quarters of the estimated £750,000 costs of the two-week hearing brought by the association, which accused the society of passing itself off as being the same as or connected with the association. At

issue was its annual income of £9 million in collections, gifts and bequests, which it feared could be erroneously left by benefactors to the society.

Arthur Bennett and his wife Gillian Atkin, diabetics and co-founders of the society, said of the judgment: "We now face bankruptcy and both our foundation and society will disappear because there is nobody else to run them."

The judge said it was up to the association to decide whether it would seek to enforce "to the utmost" the order for costs, even though the couple had been "a thorn in the flesh" of the BDA for many years. Mr Bennett, a former member of the association's executive council, and his wife disagreed with the way it was being run and were expelled in 1982.

The judge expressed his "profound regret" at the failure of all attempts to settle the dispute. He said: "Even for a lawyer, it is a difficult mental

feat to recognise this very expensive litigation as helping the diabetics whose subscriptions and gifts will be the ultimate source for payment of the lawyers' bills."

There was no evidence that the Bennetts, who run their charities from their home in Thornton Heath, south London, were motivated by private gain. The judge said it was a pity that the couple had not chosen to carry on all their charitable work under the word foundation, to which the BDA did not object. The use of the word society, in view of the association's size and age, amounted to deception.

The association later welcomed the court decision as a "victory for people living with diabetes", although it regretted having to pay a quarter of the costs. Michael Cooper, director-general, said: "It would be far better if the Charity Commission could run some kind of arbitration scheme with its own lawyers."

Turtle fossil sheds light on island's hot climate

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A TURTLE fossil found on the Isle of Wight has cast new light on the area's subtropical climate more than 40 million years ago. The discovery of the turtle, which belongs to the trionychid family, confirms that the climate was similar to that in southern Spain today.

Steve Hunt, curator of the island's geology museum at Sandown, said that the turtle, 18in across, had been found a few weeks ago on a beach near Cowes. "This is an excellent find and, as we clean the mud from it, we hope to learn more about the creature and the habitat in which it lived," he said.

The turtle was found by Andy Yule, a fossil hunter from Cowes, and is virtually complete, although slightly compressed.

A second tooth from the oldest human fossil in Britain has been found at Boxgrove in West Sussex. The tooth belonged to an ancestor of man who lived in the area 500,000 years ago.



Steve Hunt with the turtle fossil, more than 40 million years old, found on a beach

70m losses raise fear of oyster infection

The death of millions of Irish oysters has aroused concern that British oyster farms could be contaminated by imports. Irish officials blamed the loss of 70 million "seed" oysters on the exceptionally hot summer and high sea temperatures. But British oyster farmers, who suffered no such losses, suspect an infection may be the cause.

David Jarrad, managing director of River Exe Shellfish Farms at Kenton, Devon, said: "The worry is that the Ministry of Agriculture is legally powerless to stop our farmers importing oysters unless a specific infection can be identified."

Poison retrial

Victoria Calder, a British-born biologist accused of attempting to murder her lover with poison, will face a fresh trial after a jury in Christchurch, New Zealand, failed to reach a verdict. Professor David Lloyd, 58, collapsed in a coma in December 1992 and is now blind and partially paralysed. Miss Calder, 46, denies poisoning him with acrylamide monomer after he left her for a Canadian woman.

Fishing fine

The captain of a Spanish boat was fined £8,000 for fishing illegally in British waters. Constantino Busio de la Fuente, 52, was sighted 160 miles off Land's End by a plane from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Vision

The extended first episode of *Cracker*, previewed in *Vision* today and scheduled on ITV at 9pm on Monday, is replaced by the final episode of the last series, *so News at Ten* is transmitted at its customary time, and not at 10.15.

Weekend

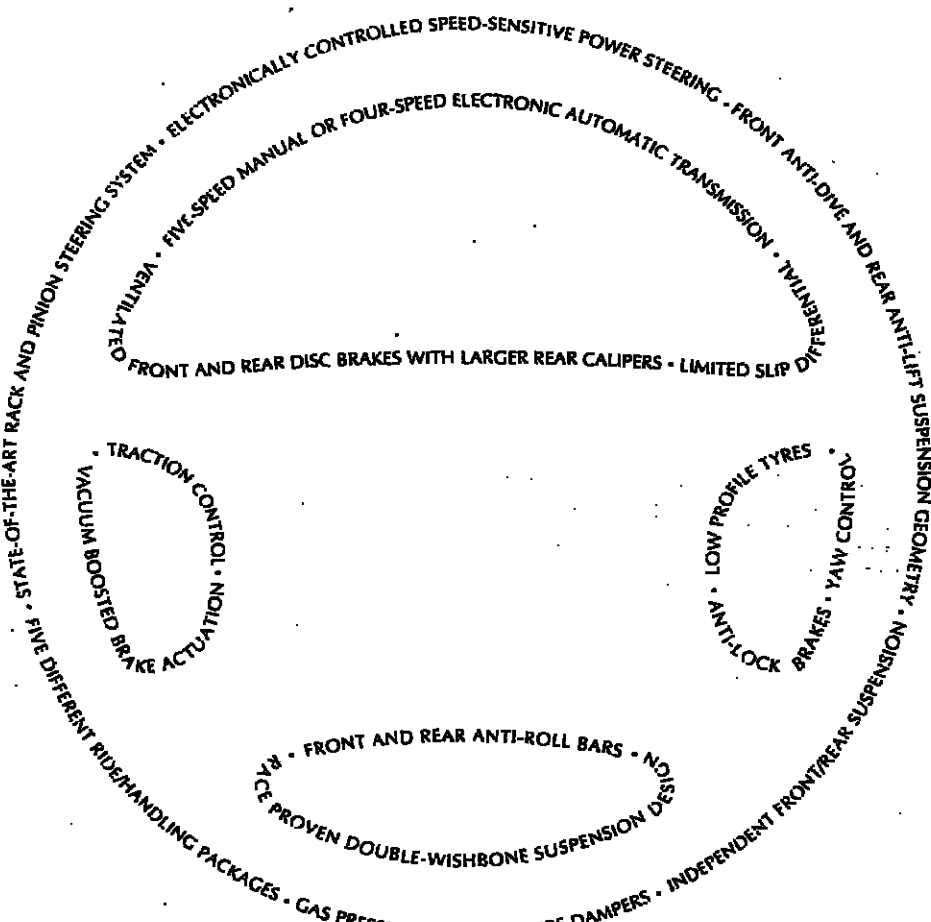
The Sadler's Wells Theatre performances (see *Dance*, page 2 of today's *Weekend* section) should read: Tues-Sat 7.30 pm; Sat 2L, matinee 2.30 pm; then touring.

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Encircled widow repels pit village bulldozers

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WIDOW'S refusal to leave her home in a despoiling village has forced developers to rethink their demolition plans and to build a housing estate around it.

Kathleen Harbottle, 71, resisted all entreaties to leave the Victorian miner's cottage to make way for retirement homes. Bradford and Northern Housing Association has now decided to build around Mrs Harbottle's house in Easington, Co Durham, where she has lived since 1957. It will be left propped up by the shell of a neighbouring house for structural reasons.

Mrs Harbottle, a miner's widow and mother of six, said: "There is no way I will move out. I don't care if my house is the only one left. It is still my house and will still be the same to me."

Mrs Harbottle, who lives with her son Stewart, 37, and Paul, 41, said: "This used to be a lovely street. Years ago you could go out and leave the door open and no one would ever dream of stealing anything. Times obviously change. I don't mind change, but there have to be limits."

They offered me only £9,500 for my home. How am I meant to find another three-bedroomed house for that kind of money?

Joan Walmsley, of the housing association, said: "We think £9,500 was a fair price for her house. That is all it was valued at by an independent assessor."

"The rest of the street has been flattened. Because it is on a slope we have had to leave the house next door, too, but it is bricked up."

"The residents were all happy to relocate a few streets away, so the community has not been destroyed in any way. These people voted for the street to be pulled down



Kathleen Harbottle and Kim, her Airedale, in the home that will soon be surrounded

and Mrs Harbottle is the only person who will remain."

Earlier this week the association allowed former residents to pull down the wall of the last house to be demolished. Mrs Harbottle was not impressed: "There was no way I was going to take part in the destruction of my old street. If more people had taken pride in their homes we probably wouldn't be in this situation. I am not trying to rubbish the younger generation but a lot of them don't even know what a brush is."

Sluggish demand hinders market for country houses

By RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE market for English country houses, which picked up during the past two years, is now back in line with property generally. Prices are stagnant and 15 per cent off their peak in June 1989.

In some areas, prices have shown small falls or rises, but in percentage terms these are insignificant. Latest figures from the estate agent Savills show prices for the average five-bedroom house with between one and five acres down by £20,000 in Cambridgeshire, where average prices have fallen from £350,000 to £330,000. In Berkshire, the firm reports prices down from £525,000 for the average country house to £500,000.

Prices are more buoyant in the Midlands, where Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Warwickshire show rises of about £30,000. Ian Stewart, director of Savills, emphasised the need for "realistic initial guide prices".

All agents complain about the low number of sales and the general sluggishness of much of the market except for correctly priced, exceptional property. One agent, James Laing of Strutt & Parker, talks of the "widespread insecurity about both buying and selling".

Strutt & Parker, in a separate survey, found prices down by £70,000 in Essex, where the price of the average



Codicote Mill had to be cut from £850,000 to £750,000



Hilton House was keenly priced and sold quickly

five-bedroom house is now £300,000; down by £50,000 in Suffolk, where such a house costs £350,000, and in Norfolk, where prices are down £20,000 to £220,000. The market was more buoyant in Berkshire, Scotland and Yorkshire. Strutt & Parker found, with a very strong market in Sussex.

John D. Wood reports a buoyant market in Hampshire and is more optimistic than other agents about prospects in the rest of the Home

Counties. Agents say some sellers have an over-optimistic view of the market, which means that properties were put on the market in the spring at prices that were too high. Price cuts have followed this autumn.

Patrick Ramsay, from Knight Frank & Rutley says: "There is an oversupply of agents, many backed by large institutions, who are short of instructions and will chase any house, at almost any price. Excess competition be-

tween agents, especially in the spring when stocks are at the lowest, leads to overpricing to secure business. Agents then spend the summer and autumn reducing prices in order to sell."

Patrick Bailey, a partner from Strutt & Parker's Newbury office, cites the example of Denford Mill House, Hungerford, Berkshire, reduced in price this summer by £90,000 to £585,000.

"This proved to be the turning point. A large number of viewings are currently under way."

Norfolk is probably the best place in the country to buy, Nigel Steele of Strutt & Parker's Norwich office says prices are currently at the same levels as nine years ago.

The stories of Hilton House, in Hilton, Blandford, Dorset and Codicote Mill, near Hitchin in Hertfordshire, illustrate the current market. Both properties were sold by Savills.

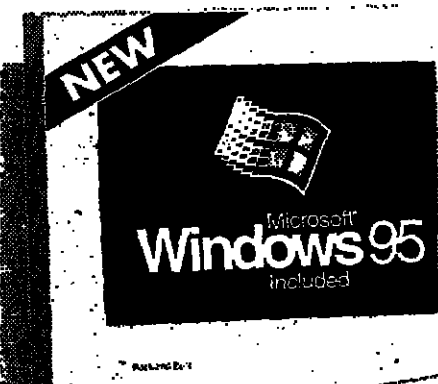
Hilton's sale was agreed two weeks after it came on the market, with six competing offers over the guide price of £400,000. It sold quickly and well because it was correctly priced and a gem of a house.

Codicote was overpriced when first put on the market in the spring and was sold when its price was reduced from £850,000 to £750,000 this summer.

Property.
Weekend, pages 9-11

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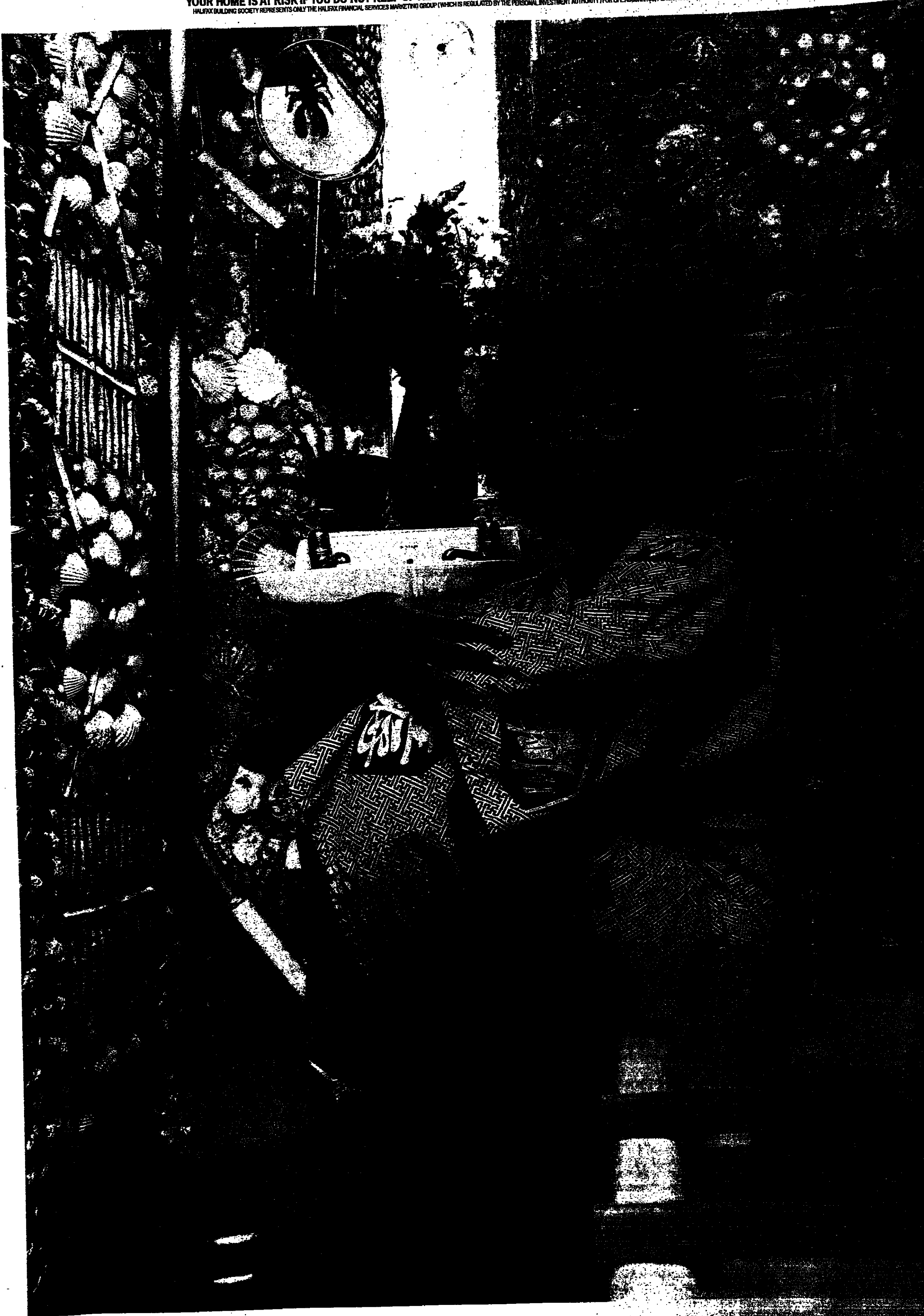
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Glasgow
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Sir Alec retiring while still in office, unusually

Glasgow alumni to nominate chancellor

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of former students of Glasgow University are being invited to join the search for a new chancellor because of the retirement of Sir Alexander Cairncross.

The distinguished economist is the first chancellor to resign in over 300 years, previous incumbents having died in office. He will leave on February 1, ten days before his 85th birthday.

The university, founded in 1451, starts the search for a new chancellor today by asking all 65,000 members of the General Council, which includes all graduates, to nominate a successor to the honorary position.

In the 544 years since the university was founded there have been 39 chancellors, one of whom, the Archbishop of Glasgow from 1684 to 1687, shared Sir Alec's name.

The first chancellor was the founder, Bishop William Turnbull, and for the next two centuries the chancellors were Bishops (later Archbishops) of Glasgow. The first lay chancellor, the Marquis of Hamilton, was elected in 1649 for his part in the Civil War. There was no chancellor until 1658 when Cromwell's secretary, John Thurloe, took office. From 1833 the office was reformed and the chancellor elected by members of the General Council.

Michael Moss, archivist at the university, said of Sir Alec: "He has become a kenspeckle figure about Gilmohill with his ubiquitous cloth cap and unassuming manner - a friend and confidante to all he encountered. Full of new ideas and information when most of his age have taken to gardening, he will be much missed."

Shakespearean star shuns Hollywood life

By DAVID ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN film studios are wooing the latest star in the firmament of the Royal Shakespeare Company, but Iain Glen is turning his back on the well-trodden path to Hollywood.

The 33-year-old actor, whose performance as Henry V at the Barbican has attracted superlative reviews from the critics, says he will not follow Richard Burton, Peter O'Toole, Kenneth Branagh, Ralph Fiennes and many other British talents who have reaped the riches of Hollywood.

Glen has had a string of successes since leaving Rada in 1986. His *Macbeth* in 1993, at Scotland's Mayfest, was described as the best since Sir Ian McKellen a decade earlier. Of his *Henry V*, one critic wrote: "Though few more handsome actors can ever have played the role, there is no self-admiration about him. He is constantly engaged in the progress of Henry's thought, seldom in Shakespearean acting do we find thought and word so spontaneously connected."

Another said: "Iain Glen wrote himself into the theatrical history books with the most stunning Stratford debut since Kenneth Branagh burst upon the RST stage. Here is an actor who uses his voice not just for effect but as a funnel for communication so clear that every flicker of thought and emotion is transmitted with effortless clarity."

Despite the accolades, Glen is plagued by self-doubt. "I have lots of fears about inadequacy and the inability to do a part," he says. There is no false modesty here. The man who can pack the Barbican's 1,162-seat theatre is genuinely reluctant to embrace any film deal that points to international stardom. Even a tempting offer closer to home from a French director who had seen his *Henry V* left him with "a feeling of dread".

The actor, whose physique can be distracting for female members of his audience, wants to keep his quiet life-style in a London suburb, his friends and the ability to make endless visits to the theatre.

He and his wife, Susannah Harker, who is starring in the BBC costume-drama *Pride*



Iain Glen, whose performance as Henry V, below, is transfixing audiences at the Barbican



with Nigel Hawthorne and Felicity Kendal. In 1991 he was voted Best Actor in the Evening Standard British Film Awards.

Surprisingly, he never considered an acting career. "I just fell upon it," he said. He had happened to get involved with the drama society at Aberdeen University. He recalled that he was not even terribly good at English at his school, the Edinburgh Academy; computer programming was mentioned as a possibility.

After appearing at the Edinburgh Festival, he auditioned for Rada. It was his speech from *Henry V* that won him a place. By the time the RSC run finishes next month he will have performed the part 140 times, drinking three pints of water during every performance of the 3½-hour play to prevent dehydration.

At the end of a startlingly successful debut he will be exhausted - and in no mood to contemplate the ever increasing offers from movie makers who will swear that every man has his price.

Denial of freedom leads to violence and grief

On the cusp of a new millennium, we see the human spirit under siege as never before. Across the world, the voices of millions are crying out in desperation for relief and guidance. Many of our fellow human beings still live in abject poverty and total degradation. The New World Order, with its promise of peace through collective security, has come upon a baptism of fire. And still it would appear that no common frame of reference, no new consensus, no global ethic has emerged to assure the peoples of the world that they can lead peaceful, serene, and decent lives.

In the midst of this confusion, it was heartening to hear the clarity of Pope John Paul II's address to the United Nations. The Pope called for a complete reappraisal of the current conditions in the world. It is a tribute to His Holiness that this call will ring powerfully in all quarters of the globe.

For we must learn the lessons of the 20th century, no matter how hard, and apply them without fear or favour. We must revise our definitions of familiar concepts, and adopt fresh practices in all fields of human endeavour. These must provide a truly substantial ethic for a new era, directly related to the needs and wishes of the peoples of the world.

It is the fundamental split between "me" and "you," between "us" and "them" which is at the root of all opposition, all

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polarities and all conflicts. It is the denial of the shared humanity of the other and the rights that flow from it which lead to the nightmare of violence and terror.

The salvation of contemporary society will lie in recognition and respect for every culture, irrespective of difference and variation. Each human culture strives to answer the fundamental questions of human existence and each must merit recognition and respect as such. From our perspective in the Middle East, where an historic accommodation of differences is slowly taking place, there is no point more crucial than this. For after decades of conflict, Arabs and Jews are finally beginning to recognise each others' hopes, fears and beliefs.

Islam has been portrayed by some as a fanatical and intolerant creed that utterly rejects the other. But faith in Islam is a matter of conscience, and conscience cannot be compelled. The Holy Koran is most emphatic on freedom of belief: "There shall be no compulsion in religion." (2: 256). It also proclaims: "Harken you who disbelieve: I do not worship what you worship, nor do you worship what I worship." The chapter ends with a categorical statement: "You have your religion, and I have mine." (30: 2-7).

Historically, Islam's ability to accommodate diversity was the fountainhead of its success. Islamic culture at its height encompassed a dazzling fusion of traditions, which would not have been possible without respect and tolerance for that which was different, and that which was other. In our efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, we are following these principles, which remain compelling even when they are ignored, within the Muslim world and beyond.

Freedom and justice cannot simply be defined by the absence of tyranny and oppression. Freedom, in the words of the Pope, is a measure of humanity's dignity and greatness; while modern totalitarianism is an assault on our dignity, denying us the most elementary and inalienable rights. It is a challenge to the individuals' spiritual growth and the moral vitality of nations.

I therefore welcome the Pope's call for a human ethic of solidarity. For only such an ethic can build a bridge across the gap between "us" and "them" and make us realise that we are all "us".

Only such an ethic can provide a viable basis for the next millennium of human history. I applaud His Holiness for this initiative, and wholeheartedly endorse it.

At Your Service,
Weekend, page 3

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No7

Major rallies 'battle-scarred' Tories with call to prepare for the political fight of their lives.

'This time, we'll beat socialism for good'

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND ALICE THOMSON

THE next election will be a "watershed" in British politics because the winner will inherit the strongest economy for decades, John Major told the Tory party yesterday.

The Conservatives had built that economy and he was in no mood to hand it over for any other party to wreck. "We are going to mount the fight of our lives and when the time comes we are going to deliver the win of our lives," he said.

He told the party conference that he had resigned the leadership in June because speculation was drowning out everything the Government was trying to do. "It had to end whatever the risk I might have lost. If I had I would still have been at this conference, still offering my support to the party, but I won."

"Today we meet united, healed, renewed and thirsting for the real fight with Labour... I think Labour has been re-reading 1984 — the book that introduced doublethink."

"You remember doublethink is the trick of holding two contradictory beliefs at the same time and believing both of them. It was the brainchild of another public school educated socialist. His name was George Orwell. But actually it wasn't that, was his pen name. His real name was Eric. His surname was Blair. Eric Blair

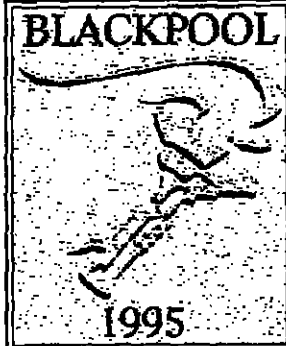
— he changed his name. I can't say the same thing about the leader of the Opposition. He has changed everything else. His politics, his principles, his philosophy."

Mr Major spoke of the "millennium challenge" of greater competition from rival economies, rapid technological change and new welfare problems. Labour believed in "cradle-to-grave socialism." But the State could not do everything. "Beat Labour one more time, you have beaten socialism for good."

The Tories stood for "the individual not the State, choice not direction, ownership not dependence, liberty not control." Under Labour taxes and inflation would be higher. There would be less choice and our defences and constitution would be less secure. The Tories would offer choice wherever they could, but they would not forget the poor and vulnerable.

"If there is one thing in our Tory tradition that has inspired me it is our historic recognition that not everyone is thrusting and confident and fit. Many are not and they deserve protection. With a Conservative government they will always be certain of getting that protection."

His economic goal was to make Britain "the unrivalled



Enterprise Centre of Europe" fit to compete with America, Japan and the Pacific basin. "It means high spending and high taxes are no longer an option. The State spends too much of our national wealth. We must get that share below 40 per cent and keep it there."

"If the State spends too much, it taxes too much. In the recession we had to put taxes up to protect the vulnerable. Now the recession is over, as soon as prudent, we must get taxes down again."

Britain's prosperity depended on the continuation of the Tory Government. Big foreign firms had decided their future lay in Britain. "These companies didn't invest in a socialist Britain, they set up here because it is a Conservative Britain. And they will only be followed by others if we keep Britain Conservative."

The best route to more jobs

was through encouraging more small businesses, the "heroes" of the economy. "We are the party of small business. When I was a small boy, my bread and butter was paid for by my father's small business. He made garden ornaments 40 years ago and some people have always found that very funny. I don't. I see the proud, stubborn, independent old man who ran that firm and taught me to love my country, fight for my own and spit in the eye of malign fate."

"I know the knockers and sneerers who may never have taken a risk in their comfortable lives aren't fit to wipe the boots of the risk-takers of Britain."

Mr Major would not sign the social chapter because it piled burdens on European business. "Don't misunderstand me. I am for Europe not against it. I intend to argue for policies that will help it succeed."

Britain had entered Europe for prosperity, co-operation and a louder voice on "that great continent". It had not joined for a new tier of government, socialism through the back door or a federal Europe. "It wouldn't work for us. Our partners must understand that it is politically and constitutionally unacceptable. That is what Labour would agree to and I profoundly believe they are



John Major after his speech yesterday. His audience followed a three-minute ovation with Land of Hope and Glory.

wrong. If others go federalist, Conservative Britain will not."

Mr Major turned to education to illustrate his commitment to the One Nation tradition. He announced plans to expand the Assisted Places Scheme and restated his ambition to see all schools become self-governing. Labour's message was "no choice for the poor", but one of Tony Blair's distinguished predecessors at Fettes public school in Edinburgh had had a

different vision. "Iain Macleod was a One Nation Tory and wouldn't he have been proud to see pupils of poor families at his old school — sent there by a One Nation Government?"

The Prime Minister condemned Labour's plans for a Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly. "I will not trade easy votes today for constitutional chaos tomorrow." The Scottish people faced a "tartan tax" of an extra £6 a week for the average

family. The result would be more bureaucrats and politicians and the decline of Scottish prosperity as investment was frightened away.

"Conflict with the Westminster Parliament would be inevitable. And then the siren voices of the separatists will foment mischief and demand an independent Scotland cut adrift from the UK."

He promised more policemen out on the beat, more cameras in the shopping pre-

cincts and the recruitment of MIS in the battle against organised crime and the "sheer evil of the drugs trade".

Mr Major concluded: "We are building the greatest success for this nation that we have known in our lifetime. We will not surrender it to a lightweight alternative. We carry the scars of battle, but they are honourable scars. We know no other party can win the battles for Britain that lie ahead."

Towering successes and their disappointed peers

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BLACKPOOL'S raucous claim of "everyone's a winner" should be treated with caution by holidaymakers and total disdain by visiting politicians. Even a meticulously planned seaside outing such as a Tory conference cannot guarantee prizes for all.

Michael Howard and Gillian Shepherd vied as the main platform successes, invigorating rank-and-file Tories with plans to toughen court sentencing and make school pupils speak articulately.

Michael Heseltine and Brian Mawhinney, seen as rivals for the role of inspiring the party in the run-up to the election, shared similar portions of conference adulation.

William Hague, who once won the Tory hearts as a teenage conference speaker, returned to further acclaim as the youngest Cabinet minister,

winning a rousing ovation for his appeal to the young.

Baroness Thatcher, who was delighted to spend her 70th birthday yesterday with her loved ones, all 4,000 of them.

Michael Portillo became a one-day winner when he attracted wild applause by his heavily Eurosceptical speech.

Gail Lilley, wife of the Social Security Secretary, accorded the unofficial and coveted title of most elegant lady on the platform.

John Major came through his first conference since re-election as leader trouble-free and finished with a widely acclaimed speech.

Virginia Bottomley, whose maiden speech as National Heritage Secretary went down about as well as a National Lottery win — a £10 one.

Douglas Hogg, the Agricul-

ture Minister, fared even worse. Having been given the onerous task of setting the conference alight with the opening speech, he failed miserably.

Michael Portillo woke from a day of initial euphoria to the attack from Europe, the Tory Left and even the Tory Right for his tub-thumping Euroscepticism.

John Prescott, deputy leader of the Labour Party, failed in his effort to attract Tories to a "defectors" stand during the conference.

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'Gang buster' may take on the Mafia and Triads

By Stewart Tandler and Michael Evans

A NATIONAL "gang buster" with powers to direct undercover operations against the Mafia, the Triads and Yardie drug runners is expected to be appointed after John Major's call for a new drive against organised crime.

The prospect was one option discussed by police and Whitehall officials yesterday as they began to flesh out the Prime Minister's plans for a national detective squad.

Neither the police nor the Home Office is yet certain what will happen. After a private debate, chief constables welcomed the Mr Major's idea but suggested that there was no need for a new unit. Instead, the six regional crime squads and the national criminal intelligence service could be harnessed together under a national co-ordinator with more power.

The Home Office is setting up a directorate to manage the debate and the new strategy. Yesterday sources suggested there could be a new unit above the regional crime squads, which would be a new tier drawing staff from the squares. That would also require a commander.

Whatever happens the new

strategy will include the Security Service. Stella Rimington, the Director-General of MI5, has already begun preparations to allocate key intelligence officers and analysts to work on a daily basis with police.

Since MI5 took the lead role over the police in intelligence-gathering operations against Irish terrorists, several police officers have worked at the Security Service's headquarters in Westminster and MI5 officers have worked at Scotland Yard.

After Mr Major's announcement yesterday, security sources said both the Security Service Act, which covers MI5, and the Intelligence Services Act, which covers MI6 and GCHQ, would have to be amended. At present MI5 is empowered to mount covert operations only against terrorism, espionage and subversion. The Intelligence Services Act, however, allows MI6 and GCHQ to gather intelligence on "serious crime". A similar clause will now be inserted into the Security Service Act.

In persuading Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and the police to allow MI5 to move into "non-traditional" areas of investigation, Mrs Rimington argued that the Security Service's long experience in covert surveillance and intelligence gathering would provide "added value" to police operations. She does not expect MI5's £150 million budget to be increased.

Yesterday David Bickford, who was an MI5 director and legal adviser to both the Security Service and MI6 until his retirement this year, said: "MI5 is expert in the art of gathering and analysis of covert information over the long term. MI5 officers delve into organisations, learning the command structures, un-

derstanding the people and the pattern of illegal activities."

The police, he said, were experts in the use of covert information in short-term operations. It was this difference in approach that allowed MI5 and the police to co-ordinate so well in the fight against terrorism. MI5 would not be out of its depth because the criminal gangs were managed not unlike the old KGB and Eastern Bloc intelligence agencies and terrorist groups.

He said that MI5 expertise would be crucial in investigating these gangs and discounting fears that MI5 was not as accountable as the police. In many recent terrorist trials MI5 officers had given evidence relating to deep covert operations.

"MI5 is not a secret police organisation. It is a gatherer of information by covert means and has no executive powers," he said. In preparation for trials, MI5 opened its files to the Crown Prosecution Service, including telephone intercept and eavesdropping material, so that "any failure to adhere to the rules can be ascertained".

Leading article and Letters, page 21

Doubts raised over extra police

By Stewart Tandler
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

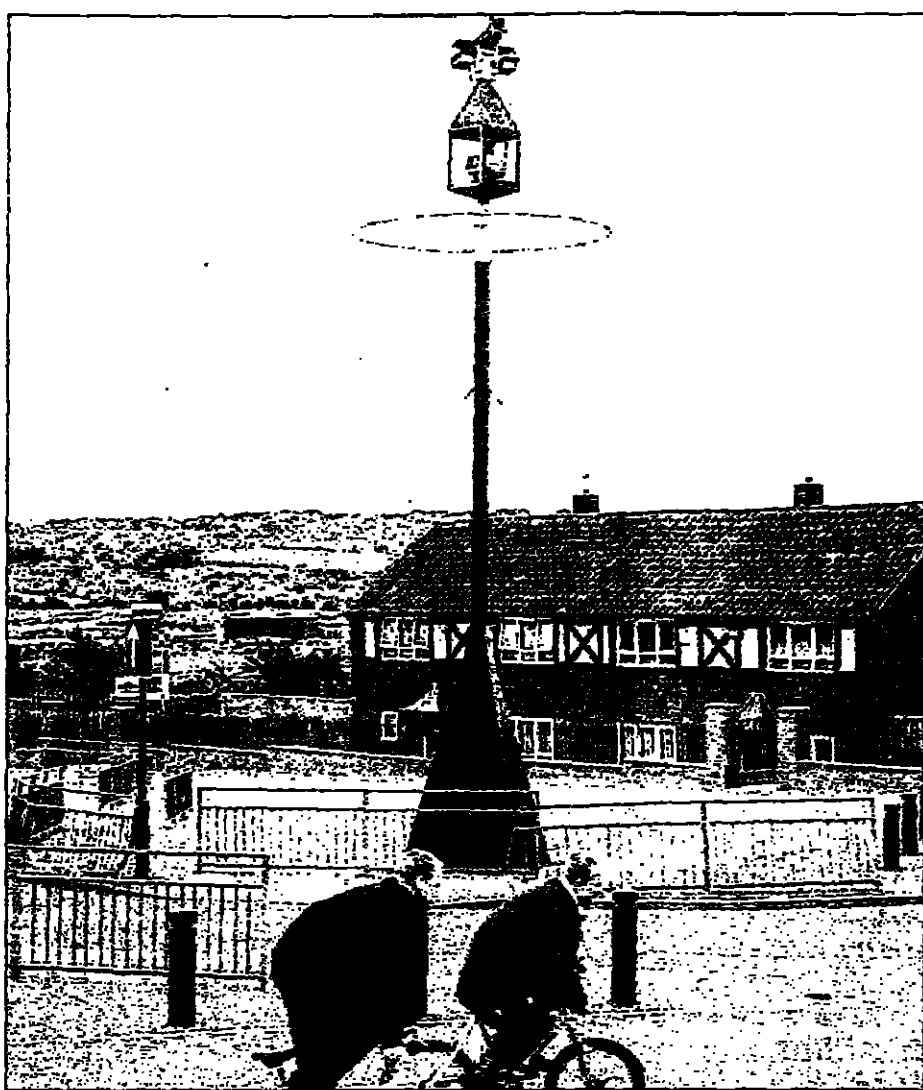
JOHN MAJOR'S promise of 5,000 extra police recruits in the next three years will mean an extra 32 officers a year each if shared equally across Britain's 51 forces.

Yesterday chief constables and police organisations expressed their delight at the promise, which will increase the present strength to 133,000 at a cost of about £100 million over the three years.

But there are questions over how the money will be allocated and whether forces will actually spend it on more officers rather than new computers or vehicles and buildings.

The announcement means that if the cash is equally divided there would be funding for 1,666 officers in each of the next financial years, but that manpower would be spread between 51 forces in England, Scotland and Wales. Divided equally that would mean each force would get 32 officers. This would mean a lot to Dumfries and Galloway police, with 384 officers, but do little for the urban forces such as the Metropolitan Police.

There are also doubts about whether more police on the beat actually prevents crime. Research suggests a patrolling officer may catch a burglar only once every 40



One of the cameras that have helped to cut crime in Newcastle upon Tyne

years and when patrols were taken off a London area some years the crime rate did not suddenly rise.

Evidence of the benefits of street cameras is much clearer. Just 16 cameras have been credited with reducing crime

in Newcastle upon Tyne by 6,000 offences in two years. Traders, who provided half the £270,000 needed to introduce the system, are reaping the benefits of falling crime and lower insurance bills.

The biggest falls are in

vehicle theft and taking without consent (56 per cent), burglary of commercial premises (50 per cent), damage (47 per cent), theft from vehicles (40 per cent), theft from person (20 per cent) and assault (19 per cent).

Schools ready for subsidy campaign

By David Charter
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT schools were preparing yesterday for a recruitment drive among low-income families to implement John Major's expansion of subsidised places.

David Woodhead, director of the Independent Schools Information Service, welcomed the announcement that the Assisted Places Scheme is to be doubled to cater for 70,000 pupils. "This is excellent news," he said. "We have constantly urged the Government to expand the scope of the scheme, which is a significant contribution to parental choice. It should mean that for tens of thousands of families the future will hold a wider choice of schools."

At present only 87 per cent of the 35,000 places are filled but the schools say there is now a demand for new places and a waiting list of schools ready to join the scheme.

One Tory backbench critic, however, called Mr Major's move a "phony" showdown with Labour. George Walden, MP for Buckingham and a former Education Minister, shared the Labour Party view that the scheme maintained a "divided and divisive" education system. He said the money would better be spent on bringing private schools into the state system, so any child could attend them.



Rimington joining forces with police

Tories regroup but Labour retains the edge

Tony Blair and "new" Labour are the main winners from the conference season. But their position is not as overwhelmingly commanding as either most Labour activists believe or the polls suggest. The Tories have stopped retreating. They have had their best conference since the 1992 election.

The July leadership contest has produced a truce in the battle over the future of the Tory party. In a confident performance yesterday, John Major was able to look outwards and present a reasonably coherent pre-election strategy. And, while largely ignored by both main parties, the Liberal Democrats survive as a potentially important third force in a close election.

Labour is riding high on the back of the widespread reaction against 10 years of the Tories in power — a sense of exclusion and of a divided Britain — coupled with the non-ideological freshness of Mr Blair's appeal. This is stronger on themes than specific commitments despite the flood of new policy documents. Whether dressed up as a "young" country, or "new" Britain, it all boils down to "time for a change".

The Tory reply is the traditional one of "don't put it all at risk with Labour". Mr Major specifically addressed the question of "why a fifth term?" The Tories' central theme of building "the enterprise centre of Europe" still sounds more like an advertisement for a new business park than a catchy election slogan. But it provides a focus for the Tories' attempt to portray themselves as the party which will produce lower taxes, lower inflation, more choice in schools, more secure defence, a safer constitution than Labour.

The Tory tactic is to depict Labour as weak on these issues. Over the next few months we will see a series of challenges to the Opposition. Will Labour vote against income tax cuts in next month's Budget? Will Labour vote against the tougher sentences proposed by Michael Howard on Thursday? There is already a competition on which party will provide more police. Last week, Mr Blair promised to abolish the Assisted Places Scheme to finance a cut in class sizes, but Mr Major turned the tables on Labour by promising a doubling of the size of the scheme.

But the real differences on

many of these issues are exaggerated. On Europe, Labour complains about Britain's isolation and loss of influence, while the Tories give warning of the dangers of a federal Europe — "socialism through the back door". The parties do have contrasting attitudes over the social chapter and qualified majority voting, but Labour is as opposed to what is caricatured as "federalism" — political union or a single European army — as most Tories.

Labour naturally wants to change the terms of the political debate, away from specific tax rates to questions of fairness and investing in the future of Britain. That has led to Gordon Brown's iron hand on new spending commitments. But Labour's attempt to propose costless symbolic pledges is unconvincing. The suggested windfall tax on utilities to fund an attack on youth and long-term unemployment is, for example, unlikely to release enough money to fund other favoured spending schemes.

Fundamental questions on public spending and taxes, and the welfare state, remain unanswered by both parties. While Labour yesterday claimed a £5.6 billion price tag for Mr Major's Blackpool promises, the Prime Minister was cautious about specific pledges, particularly on tax where action is only "as soon as prudent". The commitments Mr Major made on policy, the Assisted Places Scheme and the like, are likely to cost less than £500 million a year. Otherwise, all depends on the current spending view: none of the big departmental budgets has yet been settled with the Treasury. Hence Mr Major's suggestions on welfare reform — such as encouraging new forms of savings and insurance and more flexible use of pensions — were vague.

The party conferences have clarified the election battleground, and shown that Labour still clearly has the edge. But the Government's decisions on public spending and tax in the Budget will be more important in determining how the long, pre-election campaign will be fought.

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Young neo-Nazis jailed for arson murder of Turks

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HEFTY prison sentences were imposed yesterday on four German neo-Nazi sympathisers who set ablaze a Turkish home in the steel city of Solingen, killing five women and girls. The authorities plainly were relieved at the guilty verdict: police reinforcements had been standing by in Solingen anticipating Turkish riots if there was an acquittal. "I am innocent, innocent," screamed the youngest of the defendants, Felix Koenen, 18, jumping up from the dock. Pointing shakily at Wolfgang Steffen, the presiding judge, he shouted: "I will kill myself before the day is over!" His father, a doctor, ran out of the courtroom weeping and other relatives of the four youths yelled "You swine!" at the judge. By contrast, the family of the murdered Turks nodded in satisfaction at the verdict.

There has been no more emotive issue than the Solingen fire in relations between the one million Turks in Germany and their uneasy hosts. The 1993 attack triggered rioting and looting by Turks and

added pressure to the movement to grant dual citizenship to long-term foreign residents. "We want justice now," said one placard tied to the gates of the Düsseldorf high-security courthouse. Herr Steffen, visibly tired after 18 months of intensive, often controversial hearings, said that the three younger defendants, Koenen, Christian Buchholz and Christian Reher, would be jailed in a youth prison for ten years. Since all three were under the age of 21 when they committed the crime, this was the maximum sentence and matched precisely the demand of the prosecution. The oldest culprit, Markus Garmann, was imprisoned for 15 years.

In Germany, the trial has gained something of the controversy of the O.J. Simpson case. German television yesterday interrupted all normal broadcasts to report the verdict. Police blunders, and in particular tough interrogation techniques by a chief inspector, allowed the defence lawyers to argue that early

confessions had been forced. There were 20 different versions of the events of the night of May 29, 1993. The prosecution based its case on the original testimony of Garmann who claimed that, after a drunken brawl, the four decided to set on fire the tall, white Turkish house. Garmann recently retracted that confession, and Reher, 19, took sole blame. The judge chose to believe Garmann's first statement. "The defendants have received a fair hearing, and there can be no doubt of their guilt," he said, reading a 120-page justification of the verdict.

He said the crime was prompted by "sheer hatred of foreigners". Certainly all four had a record of far-right activity. Two had pinned pictures of themselves, giving Nazi salutes, to their bedroom walls. Garmann was a member of an established far-right party, and two of the other defendants were regular students at a karate school, which was said to be a meeting point for racist teenagers. The three



Durmus Genc, left, and his son, Bekir, who was injured in the fire, outside the Düsseldorf court yesterday

younger defendants had claimed that their racism was nothing more than a childish game and never amounted to more than the chanting of slogans. The judge, however, chose not to believe them and he discounted the various

letters sent by the defendants to relatives of the victims, the Genc family. Defence lawyers said that their clients would take the case to the Court of Appeal. All the men were found guilty on five counts of murder, 14 of attempted murder

and of aggravated arson. The Council of Turkish Citizens in Germany said: "This verdict strengthens us further in our knowledge that German justice is a stable and reliable instrument now for combating racism." Klaus

Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, said the verdicts showed that Germany would stand by its Turkish residents, and he appealed to the public "to protect the traditional German-Turkish friendship from damage".

Claes goes in front of secret panel

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

WILLY CLAES, the Secretary-General of Nato, angrily asserted his innocence yesterday when he went before a parliamentary panel that will decide whether to recommend his indictment on charges of fraud and forgery.

Mr Claes, 56, dogged by the corruption case since he took the Nato post a year ago, was questioned in camera by 11 members of a commission which is reviewing a prosecutor's request for authority to charge him over alleged bribes by Agusta, the Italian helicopter company, and Dassault, the French

planemakers. In an affair that has cost the jobs of four serving ministers and been linked to the deaths of two high officials, senior figures in Mr Claes's Flemish Socialist party are said to have received from Agusta a "one half per cent" commission on a Bfr 12 billion (£267 million) order for 46 army helicopters in 1988.

Mr Claes, who was Economics Minister, denied all knowledge. Then, earlier this year, he said he had learnt at the time of a "possible" offer of cash but had urged the party to reject it.

Guy Coeme, then Defence Minister, was also questioned yesterday. He said afterwards that he found the word corruption revolting. "I have retained all the charges which were presented to me."

While alliance officials privately question Mr Claes's defiant determination to stay in his post, Nato leaders are publicly standing by him. "Willy Claes has led the alliance successfully from beginning to end. This man has proved that he is a worthy Secretary-General," Robert Hunter, the US's Nato Ambassador, said on Thursday.

After a shaky start, Mr Claes has impressed the alliance over the past two months with his firm handling of the Bosnia-Herzegovina operation. The 16-member alliance is eager to clear the air as it prepares to implement the Bosnian peace. But support for Mr Claes is expected to waver if the commission recommends that the full parliament should vote to lift the immunity protecting him as a former minister. The parliament is likely to follow the commission's findings, expected in a week or two.

The two men most often cited as possible successors are Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, a former Danish Foreign Minister, and Rued Lubbers, a former Dutch Prime Minister.



Willy Claes: still has the support of Nato

Italy seeks art works looted by Germans

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY has launched a diplomatic offensive to recover thousands of works of art looted during the Second World War, including masterpieces now on display at museums in Berlin, Hanover and Belgrade.

The Ministry for Cultural Heritage this week published a catalogue of 2,000 of the missing paintings, statues, drawings, tapestries and rare musical instruments. The treasures include works by Michelangelo, Botticelli, Canaletto and Tintoretto. The list of missing art was drawn up 20 years ago by Rodolfo Siviero, a Florentine connoisseur who, shortly after the war, tracked down and brought back to Italy many stolen works of art. However,

successive Italian governments stopped short of publishing the list for fear of offending Germany and the Soviet Union. In occupying Berlin, the Soviet Army looted many of the artworks that had been stolen by the Nazis.

The German Ambassador in Rome indicated Bonn's intention to co-operate with the search when he attended a presentation of the catalogue at the Campidoglio Palace this week.

The cover of the catalogue carries a photograph of *The Mask of a Faun* by Michelangelo. The marble sculpture was taken by German soldiers from a castle where it had been hidden by curators of the Bargello museum in Florence.

Michelangelo's *The Mask of a Faun* which was taken by German soldiers in Italy during the Second World War

Romania recognises rival claim to throne

FROM REUTERS IN BUCHAREST

A ROMANIAN court threw the country's exiled monarchy into turmoil yesterday when it ruled that a 75-year-old prince was the legitimate heir to the late King Carol II.

The judgment recognises Mircea Grigore Lambrino, who lives in London, as the legitimate son of the former monarch, who fled the country in 1940. It appears to call into question the status of exiled King Michael, a beacon for many Romanians through decades of communism.

Court officials in Alexandria, south of Bucharest, said Judge Craciun Garbaci had granted the recognition sought by Mr Lambrino's son, Paul. The court had heard a Byzantine royal tale of an elopement and secret marriage, later annulled, between King Carol and socialite Ioana Zoe "Zizi" Lambrino.

Paul Lambrino had sought a so-called "exequatur" to recognise a 1955 ruling in Lisbon, where Carol II died in exile, confirming that Mr Lambrino was his first son and heir. "The application for the exequatur has been admitted and the court has ordered the recognition of the Lisbon court decision," Judge Garbaci was reported to have said.

Michael, 73, who lives in Switzerland, had fought the four-year case. He was crowned in 1940 but forced to abdicate in 1947. His lawyer said he would appeal. Monarchists have accused Romania's left-wing government of trying to undermine him.

Bosnia town falls as US prepares for peace talks

BY IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE strategic northwestern Bosnian town of Sanski Most has fallen to a Bosnian government offensive, the Bosnian Serb military command admitted yesterday.

"After violent attacks on Thursday, troops of the Fifth Corps [of the Bosnian government Army] occupied Sanski Most," a statement from the Bosnian Serb military headquarters announced. But it said its forces were consolidating their lines.

The acknowledgment of the defeat followed bitter fighting which had raged after the US-sponsored ceasefire began. It came as it was revealed in Washington that the Bosnia peace talks, when they start at the end of this month, will be held at a secluded location in the United States and will last as long as it takes to reach agreement.

They will be modelled on the 13 days of negotiations in 1978 at Camp David, the presidential retreat, which led to the Middle East peace pact. But the Bosnia talks will not be held at Camp David, because President Clinton does not want to take the same gamble as Jimmy Carter, the former President, who staked his reputation on staying with Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and President Sadat of Egypt, until they settled their differences.

Instead, the Americans will try to find a place that offers the same facilities as Camp David, without the presidential link. The site was expected to be in the east of the country. Negotiations are due to start

on October 31. They will be closed to the press, and all sides have agreed to give no briefings. Richard Holbrooke, the US Assistant Secretary of State, who negotiated the Bosnian ceasefire, said: "We want results, and daily press briefings are not compatible with that goal."

President Milosevic of Serbia and President Izetbegovic of Bosnia, have agreed to an open-ended stay until a deal is reached. President Tudjman of Croatia will also attend, but may not remain when the others deal with territorial or constitutional issues. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, will not attend. He has been threatened with arrest as a war criminal if he attempts to enter the United States.

Mr Holbrooke said American officials would act as intermediaries. Negotiations would not need to be face-to-face, at least initially, and would probably be long and arduous. Ceasefire violations would not disrupt the talks, but might generate Nato air strikes, Mr Holbrooke said.

William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, has recommended that Mr Clinton should impose a one-year limit on the participation of up to 25,000 American troops in the post-war Nato peacekeeping force in Bosnia. He told *The Washington Post* that the one-year deadline should apply to the entire Nato mission. The Administration would not seek congressional approval, because the Republican majority could try to disrupt US involvement.



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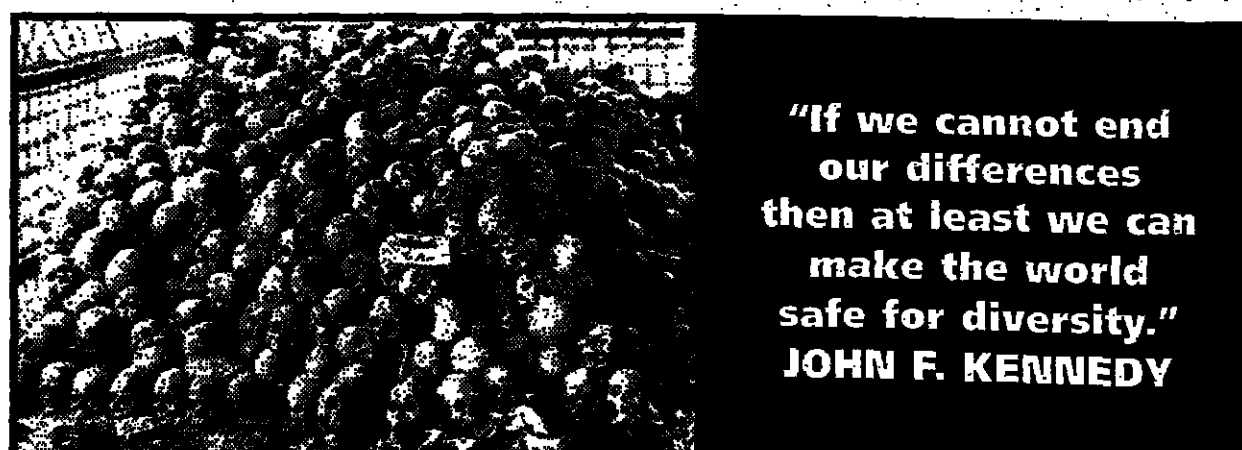
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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WEEK 25 - 22 OCTOBER



Saddam mocks democracy with one-man election

By Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent

SADDAM HUSSEIN, the sole candidate, will be returned tomorrow as Iraqi President for seven more years by an overwhelming majority in a referendum that is being treated as a propaganda farce by the world, but heralded by his state-controlled media as an unprecedented exercise in "democracy".

Saad al-Jabr, the exiled head of the Free Iraqi Council, said: "The Iraqi people on the outside are laughing. But for the people inside it is no joke: they have no alternative but to go and vote 'yes' as every movement around the polling stations will be watched by the mukhabarat [secret police]."

Even Arab nations not known for their observance of Western-style democracy have ridiculed the cult of personality being masterminded by Saddam in a desperate attempt to divert attention from the defections of his two daughters and their husbands.

In August, One Egyptian daily noted that *Al-Iraq*, a tabloid paper of only eight pages, carried a record 45 photographs of the Iraqi dictator in its October 4 edition.

"The idea of an election in which you get to vote for one person and no one else is really a mockery of democratic principles," said Nicolas Burns, the US State Department spokesman.

Rend Rahim, of the Washington think-tank The Iraq Foundation, said that the voting cards on which the seven million eligible voters will have to answer "yes" or "no" to the question: "Do you agree that Saddam Hussein assumes the post of President?" were, according to official Iraqi papers, detachable from another section of the ballot card, giving personal details of the voter concerned.

The clandestine Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, in a report from the Kurd-controlled north, said: "Should the citizen choose the word 'no' having already supplied [personal information], the consequences would be catastrophic. Standing against the regime carries the death penalty in the laws of the regime."

Despite the nightly presentation on television of praise for the "democratic exercise" from sympathetic foreigners, the Baghdad media has been shameless in its prediction of the outcome of what is the first referendum since the Baath Party came to power in 1968. In a reference to the 39 Scud missiles fired at Israel in the 1991 Gulf war, the daily *Al-Thawra* declared: "Our fortieth missile is the word 'yes' for Saddam Hussein, which all the Iraqis will utter."

The pressure to produce a near-total turnout from an electorate that has seen food prices soar more than fifty-fold as a result of United Nations sanctions is such that some local officials have threatened to withhold rations from anyone failing to appear at the polling station.

The purpose of the costly operation is to restore the crumbling authority of the regime under the slogan of "democracy", and to switch attention from the reality that the Government is based on a thuggish family clique.



Supporters carrying posters of Saddam attend a rally in Baghdad yesterday

Even Saddam's critics are braced for cosmetic political reform. "We are certain that he will do something to try to give the impression of running a broader-based Government," said Mr al-Jabr. "His problem will be finding anyone of note to serve with him."

Cult guru 'confesses' over death of lawyer

FROM PEREGRINE HOODSON IN TOKYO

SHOKO ASAHARA confessed yesterday to ordering the killings of a Yokohama lawyer, Tsutsumi Sakamoto, his wife and son in November 1989, police sources said.

According to the sources, the leader of the Aum Shin-rikyo cult has signed a confession which will be submitted as evidence at the trial of the cult leader and his followers when it begins on October 26. Earlier, Mr Asahara had denied involvement in the case.

At the time of his death, Sakamoto was leading a campaign by parents trying to recover their children from the clutches of Aum Shin-rikyo and he was about to begin proceedings against the group. Two senior disciples are alleged to have suggested killing the lawyer to Mr Asahara.

Mr Asahara's alleged confession comes after an announcement yesterday by his lawyer that the cult leader had agreed to the group's voluntary disbandment.

THE TIMES/DILLONS DEBATE



THE political theorist, Francis Fukuyama, who challenged the political and historical establishment with his controversial book *The End of History*, is back. His latest book, *Trust: The Social Virtues and the Creation of Prosperity*, targets the world of business and global trade. He will argue at this Times/Dillons debate that a country's social and cultural characteristics determine its prosperity. Philosophers John Gray and Roger Scruton will join the debate and Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, will take the chair.

The debate is on Wednesday October 18 at Church House, Great Smith Street, SW1, at 7.30pm. Tickets (£10) are available by telephoning 0121-703 8113/8114.

Latvia seeks to join EU

MOSCOW: The former Soviet republic of Latvia yesterday applied for membership of the European Union, the latest in a growing list of former Eastern Bloc nations clamouring for admission (Richard Beeston writes).

At a small ceremony in Riga, the capital, President Urmatis and Maris Gailis, the Prime Minister, signed an official application document. It could take several years of hard lobbying and painful reforms before it is approved.

Quebec gets new campaign boss

MONTREAL: Quebec's independence movement could gain momentum after the charismatic Lucien Bouchard, 56, took the reins of the campaign for secession. With dwindling rally crowds, public gaffes and poor opinion polls, observers had all but written off the separatists' chances in the October 30 sovereignty referendum. (Reuters)

Nuclear cash

COPENHAGEN: The Danish Government will pay Danes and Greenlanders £8 million compensation over the 1968 crash of an American B52 nuclear bomber in Greenland. The Health Ministry money will go to 1,500 people, including clean-up workers, the families of those who died, and local villagers. (AP)

50-year hitch

NEW YORK: United Nations staff, upset at planned job cuts, are threatening to boycott this month's celebrations of the UN's 50th anniversary. The staff union, representing about 10,000, is considering "non-participation".

Punjabi police chief to be charged

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Punjab police chief, K.P.S. Gill, is to be charged with "outraging the modesty" of a senior woman civil servant by allegedly slapping her bottom during an official dinner party.

Mr Gill was in charge of crushing the Punjab separatist uprising with tactics that were condemned by international human rights groups. Thousands were killed.

The incident is alleged to have occurred in 1988. Since then his accuser, Rupam Deol Bajaj, has pursued the case in the courts. She claims to have suffered humiliation and professional discrimination for daring to stand up to Mr Gill.

The Supreme Court ordered Mr Gill to stand trial for indecent behaviour and directed that the chief magistrate in Chandigarh, the Punjabi capital, complete proceedings within six months. Mrs Bajaj, an officer of the Indian Administrative Service, has refused to drop the case in return for an apology.

Mrs Bajaj's lawyer claimed that Mr Gill was drunk at the time of the incident. It allegedly happened at a party at a senior Punjabi government official's home, attended by journalists and local dignitaries. The Supreme Court declared: "We have found that Mr Gill behaved indecently with Mrs Bajaj in the presence of the gentry and, in spite of her objections, continued with such behaviour."

Lawyers say that once court proceedings begin, Mr Gill will have to apply for bail to avoid arrest. He may also be forced to resign.

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Clinton woos the black vote with U-turn on march

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON, in an attempt to capitalise on support for his re-election among black voters, yesterday all but endorsed a black rally in Washington on Monday only days after he had expressed serious reservations about Louis Farrakhan, its extremist organiser.

The "Million-Man March", attracting widespread black support and white consternation, could push Mr Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam leader, to the forefront of mainstream black leadership.

Mr Clinton, who said last week that the march was "not a good idea", has now described it as a "good thing" for black men to gather to discuss family matters and responsibility in the community. "He believes there could be a genuine positive outcome as a result of the work of those who

are going to gather on Monday," said Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman.

The Administration, which continues to agonise over race relations in the aftermath of the O.J. Simpson murder trial, felt that the initial approach to the march was too negative and realised that recent polls among black people place Mr Clinton well ahead of General Colin Powell in a two-way race for the White House next year.

Mr Farrakhan had also demanded that the President, who is expected to address race issues in a speech at the University of Texas on Monday, step into the "wide chasm" created by the Los Angeles verdict.

There is little doubt that hand-wringing after the Simpson trial has played a part. The liberal establishment has

only begun to realise its own part in creating the vacuum which Mr Farrakhan has so adroitly exploited.

Despite his distasteful rhetoric, many blacks in America will support the march not because they share the Farrakhan bigotry towards Jews and whites or indeed his call to the "capital of our oppression". They will join an event, expected to attract as many as 200,000, because they believe the public message will galvanise blacks to take control of their own destiny. The message, they say, is more powerful than the messenger.

Mr Farrakhan declared: "If we can organise black men to go back into our communities, pool our resources intellectually and financially, to create job opportunities for our people, to lessen the burden of crime and violence, what intelligent person would not want to embrace that kind of idea?" While the Rev Jesse Jackson, the civil rights activist, Mike Tyson, the boxer, and Public Enemy, the divisive rap band, have agreed to attend, a number of leading black celebrities remain too wary of Mr Farrakhan. General Powell, Mr Simpson and Johnnie Cochran, Mr Simpson's leading lawyer who has been using Mr Farrakhan's Fruit of Islam guards for security, are staying away.

Two of the country's largest black religious groups, the National Baptist Convention and the Progressive National Baptist Convention, have said they cannot endorse the rally because it does not promote Christianity.

Black women have been affronted that the march excludes them. "We should not be going back to some 1930s white-picket fence, ladies-at-home mode," said Jewell Jackson McCabe, founder of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.



A Cuban farmer makes his way by traditional transport on a coastal road beside the partially-built Juragua nuclear power plant

Cuba's nuclear 'monster' awaits new life

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN JURAGUA, CUBA

FROM a distance it appears to rise out of the sea: a menacing dome of concrete cloaked in a tangled web of scaffolding. To friends and foe alike, it is known as "the monster".

Workers at Cuba's Juragua nuclear power plant use the name affectionately. "We are very fond of the monster. Part of our lives have gone into it," said José Capote, 32, who has worked on the project for almost a decade.

In Miami and Washington, however, Juragua conjures up images of a nuclear nightmare on the scale of the accident in 1986 at the Chernobyl plant in the former Soviet Union. In a letter to President Clinton in June, a group of American congressmen, including Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, wrote that Juragua, "if completed... will pose a serious

threat to the safety of the United States". Juragua is about 240 miles south of Miami, but remains a somewhat distant threat, since the unfinished plant, originally subsidised by the Soviet Union, was mothballed in 1992 when Cuba announced that it could not meet the new financial terms set by the Russian Government to complete the dual-reactor complex.

However, earlier this week a senior Russian delegation, led by Oleg Soskovets, the First Deputy Prime Minister, arrived in Cuba for a week-long official tour. This included a visit to Juragua, raising speculation that a deal may be in the pipeline. Clearly Cuba has not abandoned its dream of producing nuclear energy, although it cannot afford to. The island has a severe energy shortage, with domestic oil production covering only part of its fuel needs. Cuba says that if one of

the reactors came on-line, it could provide up to 15 per cent of the island's energy needs. Cuba has put out feelers recently in search of European investors to complete the first reactor, but experts say that this will not be

easy. Completion of the reactor could cost more than \$500 million over between three and five years.

The reactor site dominates the narrow entrance to the bay of Cienfuegos, a southern industrial city where most of the factories are closed or barely operating. Next to Juragua lies "Nuclear City", the half-built town of flats for plant workers, along with schools and a clinic. About 1,200 workers maintain the plant. Others have been moved to jobs elsewhere and some poorly-paid scientists are now working in tourist hotels and restaurants in Havana.

Officials at the National Centre for Nuclear Security, say one of the reactors was about 90 per cent complete

when work ceased. The second reactor is only 20 to 30 per cent built. Thanks to \$19 million from Moscow, the plant is being carefully maintained as Cuba searches for new funding.

That does not satisfy critics of the plant, especially Cuban exiles who have lobbied Congress to punish any country that offers to help complete Juragua. However, Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, a trade and security expert at the University of Georgia, said that Congress "has repeatedly misinformed the American public about the design of the reactor, stating repeatedly that it was a Chernobyl design." He suspects that opposition to Juragua is motivated more by a desire to bring about Cuba's economic collapse than any genuine safety concern.

Demagogue seeks mainstream role

BY TOM RHODES

LOUIS FARRAKHAN, the firebrand organiser of the "Million Man March", was once a shy, stuttering child who devoted himself to violin playing and calypso singing. Much has changed since he was born, Louis Walcott, 62 years ago in the Bronx.

The Farrakhan ministry in Chicago is now guarded day and night by the notorious stone-faced guards who form his Fruit of Islam security entourage. The shy stutter has been replaced by a rhetoric so divisive and racist that even many blacks fear him as a dangerous separatist.

The white establishment, through a combination of fear and ignorance, has been too quick to dismiss the charis-

matic Nation of Islam leader as a "travelling preacher" with little organisational strength.

In private a calm, seemingly rational man who has always yearned for a place among the elders of his race, Mr Farrakhan has gained notoriety for the fiery rhetoric which has frustrated any ambitions he had to enter mainstream black politics. He calls for separatism, asserts of black racial superiority and has described Jews as "bloodsuckers". Judaism, he says, is a "gutter religion" and the Holocaust was nothing compared with the slavery of blacks.

Nevertheless, polls place Mr Farrakhan level with Jesse Jackson in the race to lead the black community.

Mexicans fear divine wrath as tenth hurricane prolongs season of misery



Anxious residents watch buildings for signs of collapse during tremors that rocked Mexico City on Thursday

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MEXICO is taking a battering this storm season in what even the most windswept observers admit is an autumn of remarkably violent weather.

Thousands of Mexicans fled from torrential rains and battering winds yesterday as Roxanne, the tenth hurricane of the year, now downgraded to a tropical storm, neared the Gulf of Mexico coast. Last night residents along the coast were warned to expect battering waves and tides four to six feet high. "God is paying us back for the Govern-

ment misbehaving," Javier Lucio, an exhausted street salesman, said. States of emergency were declared after floodwaters rose and power supplies flickered as Roxanne swept over the Yucatan peninsula. Tourists were stranded at Cancun airport and slept on the floors of local shelters. Police and the army fought against the elements but, weakened by fatigue, found they had no time to clear up between one storm and the next as Hurricane Opal yielded to Roxanne.

At least 55 people are known to have died in an earthquake that hit the Pacific resort of Manzanillo on Monday, and strong aftershocks

have continued since. So relentless have been the storms along Mexico's east coast that one newspaper carried a cartoon of God throwing a thunderbolt at the country while an angel pleaded for mercy. Homero Aridjis, a Mexican poet, was quoted by a news agency as saying: "The Virgin of Guadalupe has abandoned Mexico. We used to say that Mexico has so many dangers that only the Virgin protected us from the worst. That appears no longer the case."

But President Zedillo, for all his proud-chested pomp abroad at a time when his country was being buffeted by misfortune — last night he was flying home from a visit to

President Clinton — is faulted less than his predecessor, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who left office in December. The people are looking to the Zedillo Administration to stop the rot — and the winds. Francisco Cruz, a journalist, said yesterday from Mexico City: "The crisis here is really hard — worse than in 1982 — but people know they must work harder to survive."

Television weather forecasters nightly chart the progress of the storms as they swirl in off the ocean. In the Gulf of Mexico itself, 3,500 oil workers have been pulled off rigs in the Campeche Sound, source of much of Mexico's crude oil. The state

oil company has suspended most of its operations in the gulf.

Perhaps the only compensation for Mexicans is that they are not alone in their plight. Hurricane Opal caused an estimated \$2 billion (£1.27 billion) worth of damage in Florida, where the tourist trade has been hit by the storms. It has been the same story in the Caribbean islands. So far it is the most stormy year since 1969, and there is still a month and a half to go before the official end of the hurricane season. Even the worst year on record, 1933, had only ten hurricanes, although it also had 21 tropical storms, compared with 17 so far this year.

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Race to cash in before 1997

Hong Kong police hit by resurgent corruption

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

FEARS are growing in Hong Kong that corruption is resurfacing. The police, as some officers try to make their fortunes before the Chinese takeover in 1997, are being hit by a resurgent corruption.

Several small syndicates of crooked police have recently been broken up, and Bertrand de Speville, Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, which was founded in the late 1970s to clean out the police, said yesterday: "What we are seeing in these organised groups, in the way they operate, is very reminiscent of the bad old days."

Mr de Speville, who has deployed about 80 extra officers to combat corruption, said the number of crooked officers is very small. This is disputed by other experts who contend that Hong Kong crime is so sophisticated even in the police that the commission is not up to the task, and that the Government fears divulging the extent of the problem.

The commissioner conceded that there is a trend for officers

to try to make money before the handover. "We will see an upsurge in activity because people want to make money as quickly as possible. This is true in the civil service generally, but the police have a particular problem."

At least 153 officers, in a force of 30,000, are under investigation, including seven senior inspectors, one superintendent, and 25 sergeants.

This is the highest number for more than five years. Some officers have been suspended on full pay for four years.

One retired senior security official suggested that the delay in bringing suspended officers to trial is because the public would be shocked by the extent of corruption. He said the situation was similar to the days when the commis-

sion was established: scores of its officers were arrested, the police called mass meetings and broke into commission headquarters to beat up the staff.

A leading barrister said yesterday that the Government "is walking on eggs. They know the public doesn't accept police corruption anymore, but the Government

has something to do with 1997," but he insists that corruption has been "driven to the margins of our public and commercial life."

The corruption takes many forms. Sixty constables are being investigated for having posed for photographs wearing only caps and belts. It is unclear whether the pictures were connected with prostitution. Others are involved in pay-offs from gambling and prostitution, while others are facing charges for involvement in armed robbery.

Senior Superintendent Laurence Poots, who heads the police's internal investigation body, says that there are only isolated incidents of corruption in the force.

Mr de Speville said yesterday that he hoped recent assurances given to him by mainland officials who oppose corruption would encourage people in Hong Kong. However, it is precisely the scope of corruption in China, which seems to be seeping across the border, that terrifies Hong Kong's people.

No officer is going to walk around the way they used to, bragging about his take, waving bundles of notes

doesn't want another police backlash and they don't want to frighten investors away.

"Of course the police close ranks and they're much smarter. No officer is going to walk around the way they used to, bragging about his take and waving bundles of notes."

Chris Patten, the Governor, is aware of the scope of the problem, and said: "It may

Dismissed OJ juror 'poses for Playboy'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA

A WOMAN who was dismissed from the O. J. Simpson jury after telling the judge: "I can't take it any more," is back in court — on a photographic set for *Playboy* magazine.

John Warren, manager of Lindsey Studios, said on Thursday that *Playboy* booked the studio the day after Mr Simpson was acquitted last week. The \$4,000-a-day (\$2,540) studio was overhauled to resemble a courtroom. Mr Warren said. He would not identify the juror, but two television stations showed a video of a woman they said was Tracy Hampton leaving the studio. They said the video was taken after the shoot in Santa Clarita, 25 miles north of Los Angeles.

Playboy refused to comment. Ms Hampton, 26, an airline flight attendant, was dismissed from the jury on May 1 after telling Judge Lance Ito that she could not take the strain of sequestration. She told NBC she had been in hospital because of depression and stress brought on by her jury service.



Tracy Hampton, the dismissed Simpson case juror said by television stations to have posed for *Playboy*

'Men only rule' at lunch for Hillary

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S First Lady has become embroiled in a sex discrimination case which allegedly involves the sort of anti-female bias she so dislikes.

A part-time waitress is claiming she was deprived of the chance to work at a lunch thrown recently in Hillary Clinton's honour. Jessica Weigmann says the employment agency decided to employ only male waiters for the lunch, attended by 30 other prominent women.

The firm involved, Glorious Foods, is one of New York's smartest caterers. Miss Weigmann seems to have divulged a company secret: offering clients male-only waiters.

In a New York court, she claims the company has sent forms to clients with boxes allowing them to tick a "male waiters only" option. Miss Weigmann, 31, is seeking back pay and damages. Glorious Foods denies sexual bias, but another former female employee has described a recent dinner at which, she claims, waitresses were dropped in favour of men.

Roosevelt's wife was wanted by KGB as recruit

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A WARTIME KGB officer in the United States thought that Eleanor Roosevelt, always honoured in America for her loyalty, could be recruited as a Soviet spy.

This implausible proposal was discussed in intercepted cables between KGB offices in New York and Moscow, released in Washington yesterday by the National Security Agency more than 50 years after they were written.

The KGB officer was working for a demanding boss, Lavrenti Beria, head of state security and second only to Stalin as the most feared man in the Soviet Union. KGB documents in May 1943 discussed targeting Mrs Roosevelt by using a close friend of hers who was married to a wealthy American and considered friendly towards the Kremlin.

The tantalising and fragmentary documents make reference to "processing" Mrs Roosevelt for future recruitment through the friend's contacts with a Soviet agent. It is not clear whether Moscow ever pursued this pipedream. At the time, America and the Soviet Union were allies


against Nazi Germany, and Mrs Roosevelt, an ardent internationalist, was certainly active in drumming up grassroots support in the United States for aid to Russia. Maybe the KGB misread her intentions and thought she was pro-communist.

The documents are part of the Venona file of more than 2,200 pages which were intercepted during the Second World War. Many sections of the documents still baffle codebreakers.

The cables were exchanged at a time when Stalin suspected Britain and America would make a separate peace with Hitler to allow the Nazis to continue their advance on Moscow. A cable from New York reported that "a highly placed officer whose information has so far been correct" said four German army officers had arrived in Britain with a proposal which would allow partial allied occupation of Germany "on condition they break with Russia".

A later, more accurate cable said America and Britain would soon land strong forces in Italy. They invaded Sicily less than a month later.

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Panicking Social Democrats prefer to savage party leader than to challenge Chancellor

Bite put on the boss

THE writer diplomat, Lawrence Durrell, hated cocktail parties. One of his characters, clearly standing in for the author, used to prop himself up against a wall and imagine the entire gathering was piling on a sledge hurtling through the steppes, pursued by hungry wolves. The trick was to picture who would be discarded first, then second, then third.

Germany's Social Democrats seem to be playing a similar game. People keep falling off the sledge. Rudolf Scharping has pushed or let fall his economics spokesman, one of his best de-

BONN FILE

by ROGER BOYES



fence experts, a shrewd press officer and his chief party manager, as well as a gaggle of other officials within a few brisk weeks. The wolves, however, are howling for more. His personal popularity has slumped to 15 per cent; the party is at a postwar low.

The betting is his party will be battered badly in Berlin elections next week but he will survive a leadership election on October 24 into line. Wolfgang Schulman spoke against the currency. Herr Kohl ignored him, talking loudly to advisers before walking out halfway through the speech. Herr Schulman earned the applause of only three deputies, the rest maintaining a strict silence.

His career is unlikely to prosper over the next few years.

and probably next month's party congress. But in the long term, which in the Social Democratic Party means six months, he has lost.

The conventional wisdom is to blame his lack of charisma. The papers are full of comparisons between Tony Blair (chirpy, open moderniser) and Rudolf Scharping (bearded, stubborn traditionalist). But the projection of personality is not such a critical factor for the Germans. Helmut Kohl, certainly in his early years, was no match for Franz-Josef Strauss, yet the Christian Democrats and the voters preferred the stolid Rhinelander to the fiery Bavarian orator.

The real reason for Herr Scharping's rapid demolition is the notorious "Out of power syndrome". During Herr Kohl's 13-year reign, the Social Democrats have become deeply provincial, willing to exercise power at a regional or town hall level but panicking about taking on national leadership. It is easier to knock down the party leader than to challenge the Chancellor. The



Show of unity: the bearded Rudolf Scharping with Oskar Lafontaine, left, and Gerhard Schröder.

party's crisis will not end until March. Then the successful outcome of a regional election in Schleswig-Holstein should free the Social Democrat prime minister, Heide Simonis, to challenge for one of Herr Scharping's jobs. There are other more noisy candidates for the leadership. Oskar Lafontaine, the tubby Saarland prime minister, wants to relieve

Herr Scharping of the party chairmanship. Gerhard Schröder, prime minister of Lower Saxony, thinks he has a better chance to beat Herr Kohl and is certainly the Social Democrat whom the Government most fears. But Frau Simonis is fresh and plucky and won arguments with the civil service union.

Naturally the party is present-

It's guid to support Caledonia

SWIRLING kilts and the skirl of pipes have become a feature of European life. The Highland Games are being held in The Netherlands, not known for its heights. Killed Dutchmen toss the caber, sheepdogs go through their paces and pipe bands from across the Continent exercise their lungs. In Germany and Switzerland bagpipe academies are flourishing and it is all the rage at a German society wedding to hire a uniformed piper.

There were always Caledonian societies and well-oiled Burns nights for expatriate Scottish communities. Now more and more foreigners are taking part. In Bonn, the St Andrew's Night ball is overwhelmingly attended by Germans keen to tuck in to haggis and hear the Chief, currently the British press attaché, Michael Forbes Smith, recite Robbie Burns ("It's guid to support Caledonia's cause") in the incomprehensible original.

Braveheart, about Scottish hero William Wallace, is a hit in German cinemas and the Edinburgh-born Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, is rarely off the TV. Car stickers on Volkswagen mini-buses — a sure indicator of the popular mood — announce: Think Haggis.

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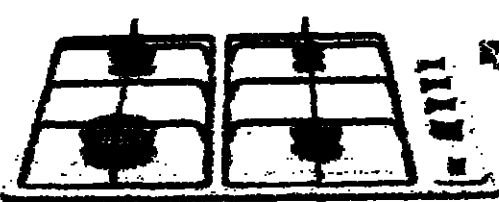
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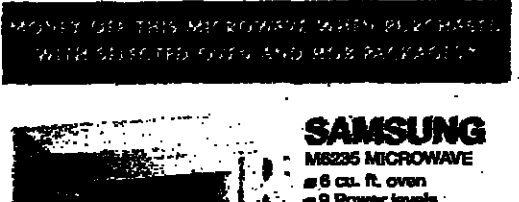
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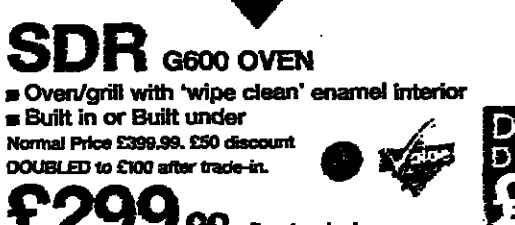


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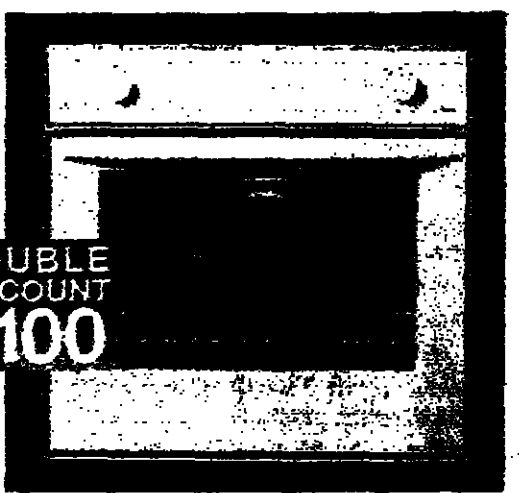
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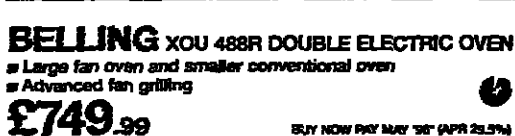
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Spain refuses to lend Picasso war picture to France

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

NEARLY 60 years after a notorious bombing raid in the Spanish Civil War inspired Pablo Picasso to paint *Guernica*, the great symbol of pacifism has become embroiled in the row over France's resumption of nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

Art experts in Madrid have refused to lend the painting to France for an exhibition, claiming it is too fragile to be moved. The decision has been interpreted here as a political gesture in retaliation for France's resumption of nuclear testing.

The Spanish press has argued that it would be inappropriate to lend the icon of the pacifist movement to France while President Chirac continues his nuclear policy.

The row cast a brief shadow over President Chirac's visit to Madrid last week. At a press conference with M. Chirac, Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister, insisted the decision rested "solely on the question of whether the painting can withstand another journey". He said the Government would not be "swayed by the emotions of public opinion".

But the Spanish authorities are expected to delay making a final ruling on the politically sensitive issue until after elections next March, by which time the French nuclear tests will be completed. The exhibition in France, entitled *Face to Face with History*, is to take place at the end of next year.

Already bruised by the outcry against nuclear testing, the French press has seized on the squabble as fresh evidence that France has become an



Guernica: a detail from the Picasso painting

international pariah. "Spain should not be too miserly in this affair," *Le Figaro* said yesterday.

French art experts have been quick to point out that Picasso painted *Guernica* not as an indictment of war, but to protest against a specific event during the Spanish Civil War: the slaughter of civilians in the Basque town of Guernica on April 26, 1937, by Nazi warplanes on behalf of General Franco.

The French point out that the painting made a far longer trip in 1981, when it was moved from New York's Museum of Modern Art to Madrid, in accordance with Picasso's wishes. The French press has also reminded readers that Picasso painted *Guernica* in Paris, where it was first exhibited in 1937.

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OPINION

What is the point in going to a live performance, and ending up watching the pianist on a video screen?

THEATRE

Eddie Izzard is back in the West End with his solo show and what a strange star he proves to be

THE TIMES ARTS

OPERA

In the tenor Francesco Piccoli, Glyndebourne has found a near ideal Rodolfo for its *Bohème*

ON MONDAY

A hit, or a miss? Alan Bates and the new West End production of Ibsen's play, *The Master Builder*

May I introduce you to the last nail in the coffin of Western civilisation? Well, perhaps I exaggerate. After all, we have not yet experienced Sir Cliff Richard's musical adaptation of *Wuthering Heights*. But I exaggerate only a little. This nail is called "Going out for the evening, but ending up watching telly" — and it is the saddest thing I have heard about since Lionel Bart's *Twoing*.

Don't get me wrong. I am not referring to the perfectly normal subterfuge of pleading to see a friend perform in, say, the local operatic society's *Merry Widow*, and then developing a strategic migraine which renders you incapable of doing anything that night except watching *Lethal Weapon 3* on the box.

No, the alarming new custom is where you actually make the effort to leave your house and catch some good old-fashioned live entertainment, only to find when you get there that the promoter had desperately tried to make the

See the show, who needs the video?

experience come as close as possible to watching telly at home. This probably all started when video screens were erected at sporting events. Ostensibly their function was to give those at the back a close-up of the action. But there was another reason. The screens were intended to attract a new generation of fans who had been brought up on action replays, and were consequently started to discover that, at a live match, the words "blink and you miss it" are literally true.

Well, I concede that there is a certain sadistic pleasure to be had from watching a batsman's atrocious paring shot replayed over and over on a giant screen as the unfortunate chap trudges back to the pavilion. Caligula would have approved of action replays.

But what can one make of the sudden appearances of video

screens in the serious music world? Inevitably, the pace has been set by the South Bank Centre in London — or Gimmicks 'R' Us as we may soon have to describe this extravagantly subsidised rest-home for terrible marketing ideas.

This month the South Bank's Great New Idea is to pep up its piano recitals by relaying the video image of the pianist's hands on a giant screen behind the performer. Action replays of the big moments (*Trill of the Day? Test Octaves Special?*) will clearly be the next step.

I can think of several pianists who, if the fee were substantial enough, would be happy to perform in front of a display of balloons, or the Dagenham Girl Pipers. But most pianists, fortunately, cling to the dusty old notion that the masterpieces of their repertoire require an aura of



RICHARD MORRISON

concentration if they are to reveal their full profundity. How you create that concentration when your disembodied hands are whizzing around a giant screen is something I leave to Brendel, Ashkenazy and Co to puzzle out.

Meanwhile, from America comes news of an even odder technological development. Opera has, of course, already made one big concession to the telly age, when it introduced translations on superlatives. They were a revelation. For the first time, English-speaking audiences could truly appreciate the depths of poetic banality plumed by most opera librettos.

Now the Metropolitan Opera in New York has spent more than a million quid developing an exciting refinement of superlatives. Instead of the translation being flashed up on a big screen, it now appears on tiny screens attached to the back of all the seats. Just like those personal videos found in the posher cabins of jumbo jets! I only hope that the Met has also invested in blankets and reclining seats, so that you can get a proper kip during Wagner.

About 20 years ago there was a fashion for producing recordings of "womb sounds" that you played to get your baby to sleep. Then somebody pointed out that, after nine months of nothing but womb sounds, the last thing a baby needs is more wheezing and slurping from internal organs.

I feel much the same way about going to a live event and then being invited to watch a television screen. The more electronic paraphernalia are used to "enhance" live performance, the more an audience starts thinking: "Well, I might as well have stayed in and watched the video."

I understand why the South Bank and the Met are investing millions in their electronic toys. It is because they are nervous about attracting audiences who are uninitiated in the strange rites of

classical music. They are right to be nervous: music education is at its lowest ebb since 1945. No wonder that audiences are declining for piano recitals; few people know what a sonata is, let alone how to listen for themes, development, recapitulation. But flashing up giant pictures of a pianist's hands is a bit like sucking a piece of Elastoplast on a broken neck. The problem goes a bit deeper.

The South Bank and the Met would argue that it is not their responsibility to remedy their respective nations' educational deficiencies. That is true. But somebody must make a stand, and to expect politicians to speak out against the prevailing anti-intellectualism of the video age is pointless. After all, that same anti-intellectualism has largely reduced political thought itself to a succession of simplistic soundbites. As I said earlier, it is one more nail in the coffin of Western civilisation. Shall we watch it being hammered in now, or see the action replay?

Letting the chat out of the bag

Eddie Izzard has acquired an imposing set on route from the Albany, where he played the educated fool last year, to the larger Shaftesbury, where his latest solo show is to be found. It is a towering white book, which fills the stage, then opens to reveal a blue throne and some white steps.

Half-tripping and half-trundling down them, comes the comedian himself in a unisex orange jacket and black clinging trousers. But don't be worried by this overblown tribute to his own conspicuous success. The same Izzard is to be found behind what my word-processor has just mispelt as his earnings, but actually meant to say his earnings.

He dawdles then, sprouts from topic to topic, often with hilarious effect. "Er-um, you know," he goes, and suddenly the subject shifts from the speech habits of mynah birds to the kind of backward-slanting walk people adopt when approaching cliffs to the curious way human figures gyrate when you press the freeze button on your video. Then it's on to the deconstructionist quiz show he has invented for late-late television, "Whose Pig Is This?"

Eddie Izzard Shaftesbury

in which contestants must claim porkers running amok in the studio.

Izzard has been compared to the kind of scatty chatterbox you sometimes find sitting next to you on the Tube, would prefer to describe his act as Dada on the Clapham omnibus, for his forte is making the ordinary and banal seem weird, fractured, surreal. He likes talking about the oddity of thimbles, or the eccentricities of supermarkets, or the sinister atmosphere you find in petrol stations after midnight. Look behind you as you pay for your fuel, and there is a sad, bleating boy with his sad, bleating girlfriend, followed by a long line of murderers wanting new banners for their video guns.

In the first half, Izzard variously invites us to consider the miser's reaction to Burns's claim that their best-laid plans "gang aft a-gley", and to acquire a good, aggressive technique for use on store detectives. His second half has

a bit more of a theme. The claim that a pet food called "Mr Dog" was renamed "Caesar" combines with memories of "amo" in the classroom to give the evening a classical slant. "Hello, is this Gaul?" ask very polite Romans as they tootle north from Italy. "Actually, guys, I'm thinking of changing my name," adds their leader, a Mr Dog.

And so to the problems of living above rain: I fall level in La Paz ("the best the clouds can do is spit up the mountains") and the chaos Pavlov caused when he tried his techniques on cats. You feel that anything may happen, and in fact anything does, for one of the buttons on Izzard's posh orange coat accidentally flew across the stage on opening night. And did he panic, did he ignore it? Not at all. He rummaged something about one of his buttocks or nipples falling off, and went into a long, dull and clearly unheeded routine of sewing it back on with thread handed him from the stalls. He is a strange, bickering sort of star, but a star he is nonetheless.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Eddie Izzard: "His forte is making the ordinary seem weird, fractured, surreal"

Out of the charts and into delight

POP

Jimmy Somerville Grand, SW11

"SORRY", Jimmy Somerville tells his fans, "but I can't do all of that song. I'm 34 years old now, and small-town I am not." Fair enough: artists must inevitably get tired of singing old favourites year in, year out. But it is hard to escape the fact that *Smalltown Boy*, a Top Three hit for his former band Bronski Beat in June 1984, is still the best original song — and one of the most keenly observed rites-of-passage pop lyrics ever written — that the falsetto Glaswegian has ever recorded.

So it was both a tease and a disappointment to be offered an elongated version of its wistful coda on Thursday night, at a performance coming early in a 12-date tour of Britain and Ireland.

Somerville's constituency has shrunk since the days when the Bronskis and his subsequent band the Communards regularly forced high-energy beats and gay political issues on to the Radio 1 playlist. From the more relaxed feel of a recent album, *Dare to Love*, that would seem partly to be a matter of choice — the singer obviously feels it is no longer seemly to guarantee a hit by raiding the back catalogue of yet another clubland diva, as he has done so often in the past.

The enjoyable new single *By Your Side* proves almost pedestrian when compared to

his frantic cover of the Philly classic *Don't Leave Me This Way*, and may sell fewer copies as a result, but at least it marks a man determined to move forward with his music, even at a financial cost.

There are still moments of disco frenzy, of course, causing Somerville to unleash that inimitable dancing style — as if a boxer and a belly dancer are imprisoned together with the same tight T-shirt and pair of jeans, each struggling to establish sole tenancy.

The gay politics have not been forsaken either, although the title track of *Dare to Love*, a contribution to the Age Of Consent debate, is lyrically clumsy compared to the much-missed *Smalltown Boy*. Clinging couples of all persuasions seemed not to mind, though there was more audience hand-holding here than in the whole of Wembley Arena when Chris de Burgh sings his awful *Lady in Red* and perhaps the most important point is that little Jimmy himself looks totally and blissfully happy.

ALAN JACKSON

GLYNDEBOURNE Touring Opera has the knack from time to time of engaging just the right tenor for the job. Roberto Alagna made his first British appearance when *La traviata* was on the road. Francesco Piccoli, another debut here, is a near ideal Rodolfo in *La Bohème*. He is 36, but looks and sounds much younger. There is a fresh and easy flow to the

Glyndebourne on the road again

voice. He does not go searching for notes; they just come naturally.

Piccoli was constantly attentive to his Mimi, even during *Ché gelida mattina*, when tenors worry more about their top C than getting the girl out to supper. And there was

plenty of voice left at the close for the soft suggestion that Mimi should now tell her story. Piccoli knows how to sing Puccini.

Anne Dawson was the Mimi when Aidan Lang's production was new in 1991. She is shy and timid at the start, with her considerable soprano held back until Mimi acquires a bit of Parisian savoir faire. The flowers she makes in her attic may never bloom, but Mimi certainly does. Susannah Glanville's Musetta is kept under equally tight control, calming down after her Barbican arrival and a spirited Waltz Song to become everyone's most reliable chum.

Paul Whelan, up against a top-drawer Rodolfo, sang too loudly as Marcello. His fellow Bohemians were more moderate: Howard Quilla Croft as a boyish Schaunard and Henry Waddington's Colline shaping with affection the farewell to his beloved coat, as he folds it up neatly as a guardsman's bedroll.

Aidan Lang's production improves in the last act. Earlier it is hampered by Russell Craig's unatmospheric and clumsy sets. Louis Langrée began by conducting too exuberantly: *Bohème* has patches of thick scoring and it is easy to overwhelm the singers. But the musical rewards are generally much greater than in some *Bohèmes* recently seen in our larger houses.

Don Giovanni was rougher. This may accord with Deborah Warner's view of Giovanni as an urban thug. But her production, which stirred up a bit of anger when new, does not improve with acquaintance and Hildegard Bechtler's set remains a model of unloveliness. Giovanni Furlanetto tears across the stage, stripped to his eyes, flick knife at the ready, sing rolling like a Vincent Price ready to send another

OPERA

maiden to the stake.

The performance has depravity and energy in good measure, but it lacks the vocal finesse for Mozart. The serenade was sadly coarse. Michael John Pearson's Leporello was a calming influence until he ends the evening gibbering in front of the carved Madonna

Giovanni was fondling earlier.

The surrounding performances are variable. Susan Gritton and Wynne Penrice are excellently matched as Zerlina and Masetto, she a local tease and he a belligerent skinhead. Plenty of vocal promise from both.

Alwyn Mello's Mozart has been noted from Welsh Nat-

ional Opera and her Elvira is full of fire. A pity, perhaps, that she was not encouraged to have a go at Anna, who is weakly cast. The Ottavio, too, needs more maturity. John Tranter had plenty of that latter quality as Commendatore, all too fleshy and not striking much terror into anyone.

Marco Guidarini, the conductor, took a brisk view of matters.

JOHN HIGGINS

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DANCE

The ballerina Darcy Bussell wears tight plastic trousers and stiletto heels. She also dances like a dream



BASE NOTES

Peter O'Toole waits in the wings for a chance to take over in the hit play, *The Steward of Christendom*

THE TIMES ARTS



BASE NOTES

Hollywood star Tommy Lee Jones has his heart set on working behind the camera, not just in front of it



RECORDS

Serious music from a funny man: Dudley Moore's recording of Grieg reviewed in Weekend, page 4

A Bussell never out of fashion

Debra Craine meets Darcy Bussell, fashion model, Hollywood hopeful and full-time ballet star

When she burst on to the scene six years ago, courtesy of a starring role in Kenneth MacMillan's new ballet, Darcy Bussell was the fresh-faced ingenue who carried the future of British ballet in her glorious limbs. She probably did not know how much was expected of her then, but the years since will have given her a pretty good idea.

Her media coverage has been extraordinary. Fashion shoots, lifestyle features, television appearances, even Hollywood screen tests: all have been slotted into her bulging diary. Her portrait hangs in the National Portrait Gallery. She is an OBE. For the first time since Margot Fonteyn captured the public's imagination in the 1960s, a ballerina has crossed over into the mainstream consciousness.

Her supermodel height and slimline statistics have made Bussell the darling of fashion editors — she slips neatly into all those designer samples. She has brightened the pages of *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*, been dressed by Bruce Oldfield and starred with French and Saunders. The film director Sydney Pollack was so impressed that he invited her to test for the Audrey Hepburn role in his remake of the 1954 film *Sabrina*.

In dance terms, what makes Bussell so special is the extraordinary physical dynamism that sets her apart from most other British dancers. She is incredibly strong; she feeds off a tremendous store of energy; and she trades on the exciting possibilities of her unusual height and her long, luminous legs. She is also possessed of a rare physical intelligence that powers her performances in a way no one else can match. Beautiful, bold, generous, voluptuous, driven — these are the adjectives of her dancing.

When you meet Bussell, though, it is hard to reconcile this hungry stage animal with the fact of her person. The 26-year-old still comes across as the archetypal girl-next-door; her conversation is sprinkled with juvenescence and enthusiasm. And it is with a sunny normality that she lets you know why she courts celebrity.

"I don't want to be seen just as a dancer. I want to be seen socially as well," she says. "Going to the opening of a new club, clothes, fashion: it's all good fun. And it's nice to think that dancers are able to do this, that they don't have to be aerobic weirdos. It's also good to show the general public that ballet dancers, and dance itself, is exciting work; it's not just pretty girls in tutus."

"I did one fashion shoot where they had me in stiletto heels, tight plastic trousers, red ones, with this orange mohair jumper. It certainly wasn't the classical look of a ballet dancer. They even had me hanging upside down."

It's nice that dancers don't have to be anorexic weirdos

It's a far cry from Bussell's decorous predecessors, but she enjoys playing with her image. "Margot always had that glamorous image, wearing couture clothes and looking like a princess. Today I suppose we are more real. After all, choreographers are more daring; they are more ruthless in what they're portraying. It's not always so lovely any more. There is vulgarity on stage and it can be exciting if you see something very dramatic and rough or ugly against something beautiful."

She also enjoyed her brief flirtation with Hollywood, which brought the chance to share a screen test with Harrison Ford, who is starring in the *Sabrina* remake. "He hadn't read the script, and he sat down and started going through this couple of pages. Well, by this time I knew it perfectly, and because Harrison was quite slow I was waiting for every word he was going to say. And I kept saying 'It's not that bit' — I can be quite bossy. And I thought 'Darcy, what are you doing? You are telling Harrison Ford what comes next!'"

"In the end, Paramount needed a name and I was too much of a wild card. If something came up again I would definitely go for it. But I am solidly into my dancing and that's what I made myself good at and that's why people know me. It would be stupid to throw that away."

Happily, she is dancing with more confidence than ever, fully recovered from the ankle injury that kept her off stage for six months last year. Next Saturday she stars in the Royal Ballet's season-opener, *Swan Lake*, a work which shows how much she has matured as an artist.

"I learnt so much when I was injured. People said it must have been such a disadvantage, being off for that time and missing out on so much. But I think I gained in mind more than I would have had I worked in that time. I gained ideas that wouldn't have come up in three years. I know it sounds naïf, but I grew up, mentally. And in *Swan Lake* I don't know how conscious the change was; I just felt different in my body and how I was meant to treat it. And that affected the character."

Swan Lake has changed so much for me, since doing it at 20. I thought then that it was so difficult and it seemed like your mind was filled with as much as it could be. And then a few years pass and you gain another amount that you didn't think you'd be able to fit in. Now I have a larger capacity to retain different thoughts and ideas."

The danger for Bussell now is that having achieved so much so quickly, there is nowhere for her to go. Most dancers never have a full-length ballet made for them. Bussell was still a teenager when MacMillan picked her for *The Prince of the Pagodas*. Since then, she's danced every major role in the Covent Garden repertoire.

"It's scary to think that I've done all the classics. It hasn't really sunk in. But I don't want to go on to new things straight away. There is still a lot more to find in the classics; I don't think I'll ever come to grips with them completely." And, if she should get bored on this side of the Atlantic, there are her regular guest



Darcy Bussell: "I am solidly into my dancing; that's what I made myself good at"

appearances with New York City Ballet to spice up her performance diet. "Peter Martins wants me to do more new ballets with them. But he knows I'm not going to join New York City Ballet, even though he'd like me to. There's so much here it would be silly to miss."

Swan Lake opens at Covent Garden (0171-304 4000) on Oct 21

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament
STEVE McQUEEN

Profession: Artist and film-maker
Age: 25

Who is he? A solid young man whose work deals with the timeless and nonetheless current subjects of sex and race in a sophisticated, timeless and nonetheless current manner.



Schooling? Having failed to organise an apprenticeship in electrical engineering, and despite the fact that he had obtained only one O level (in Art), McQueen somehow managed to persuade Drayton Manor High School to let him stay on to take A levels. Then came a foundation course at Chelsea School of Art. This was followed by a BA in Fine Art at Goldsmiths' College, which he left with a first-class degree awarded on the strength of his films.

And then? His brilliant degree was enough to secure him a three-year place at Martin Scorsese and Jim Jarmusch's renowned New York University Graduate Film School.

So if, as for his namesake, the glory of the cinema beckoned, why didn't he stay in New York to learn the trade? He just gave up. "I wasn't liked at NYU. The fact that I came from an art background made me different. You couldn't throw a camera up in the air and catch it: there was no experimentation."

What did he do instead? He came back to London and showed early this summer at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in the Mall a slow, sensual, black-and-white film installation in which two naked young men, viewed from extreme angles, go through a range of swaying, jiggling, sparring, and smiling motions.

What was experimental about that? Art and film are drawing ever closer. While some artists seem to be intent on making pretend feature films, McQueen prefers to make works of art that exploit the immediate physical experience and the lack of linear narrative that cinema-type floor-to-ceiling projection can provide. McQueen's methods are classically avant-garde.

What next? He is now represented by the Anthony Reynolds gallery in London. The Pompidou Centre in Paris wants to show the ICA piece at the end of this month as part of a show "to do with sex and the history of art". McQueen is currently struggling with a storyline for a piece which will aim to reflect the two-dimensional quality of the surface of the skin. The work will be included in *Spellbound*, a show of artworks made by film directors and films made by artists, at the Hayward Gallery in February 1996.

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THE next blockbuster from the team that brought us *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon* is on its way to London. Cameron Mackintosh has announced that his production of the new Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg musical, *Martin Guerre*, will open at the Prince Edward Theatre on June 18 next year. The musical, to be directed by Peter Donaldson, is based on the true story from 16th-century France that inspired the 1981 French film, *The Return of Martin Guerre*, and the recent Hollywood remake *Sommersby*.

THE multi-artist compilation album recorded in a day to benefit child victims of the conflict in Bosnia has already raised more than £2 million in Britain, says Gol Disc. Further royalties to benefit the charity War Child will come from sales of *Help* throughout Europe and Japan, and the LP will shortly be released in America. Meanwhile, a four-track *Help* EP, featuring Radiohead's critically ac-

BASE NOTES

claimed song *Lucky*, goes on sale next week.

IT MAY seem that Donal McCann is an inseparable component of Sebastian Barry's Royal Court play *The Steward of Christendom*, but none other than Peter O'Toole is waiting in the wings to take over when McCann lays the role to rest. According to the playwright, O'Toole told McCann that: "I'd like to do this once you finish with it." Where would O'Toole take on the role of a Dublin metropolitan policeman? "It could be a West End thing," Barry says. "Or he might take whatever section of the world Donal hasn't wanted to touch. It will depend on what remains."

HOLLYWOOD star Tommy Lee Jones looks set to make his feature film debut as a director. Jones is in discussion with 20th Century Fox to direct — and play a supporting role in — *3rd Down and Forever*, based on the life of the wayward American footballer Joe Don Looney. Like Looney, Jones hails from Texas and played football in college. But, if the deal goes ahead, Jones would portray Looney's father.

THE gifted stage and film actor Alfred Molina, not seen on the London stage since the National Theatre production of *The Night of the Iguana* more than three years ago, is the latest British actor to be preparing for a New York theatre debut. Molina will join Jason Robards and Catherine Byrne in *Molly Sweeney*, when Brian Friel's acclaimed play opens at the Roundabout Theatre in January. Coincidentally, the Roundabout is doing *Iguana* in March, but without Molina, who will be otherwise employed.

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ELECTION OF CHANCELLOR

As Sir Alexander Cairncross retires as Chancellor of the University on 1 February 1996, intimation is hereby made that the election of the successor to Sir Alexander Cairncross as Chancellor will be declared at the next half-yearly meeting of the General Council on 27 January 1996.

Accordingly, nominations are invited for the office of Chancellor of the University with effect from 1 February 1996. A nomination requires to be made by a proposer and a seconder, both of whom are members of the General Council, on a Form which will be supplied by the Clerk to the General Council. In addition each nominated candidate requires to sign a Form of Consent which will also be supplied by the Clerk. Such Nomination and Consent Forms require to be lodged with the Clerk to the General Council by 12 noon on Friday 24 November 1995 at the undernoted address. In the event of there being more than one nomination for the office of Chancellor, a postal election will be conducted prior to the General Council meeting on 27 January 1996. If relevant, further intimation concerning this election will be made in due course.

G Ronald G Graham CBE, MA, LLB, Clerk to the General Council, Court Office, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ. Tel. 0141 330 4170.



In Frankfurt, books about Fred West and Nick Leeson are being auctioned before they are completed, reports Anne McElvoy

Desperately seeking sensation

The publishers, agents and rights-hawkers stalking through the undergrowth of the Frankfurt Book Fair this week have a huntman's fervour in their eyes.

Not for them the casual visitor's pastime of spotting the weirdest book on offer (purely personal nominations: *The Encyclopedia of Unusual Sex Practices* and *Combining Buddhism With Work Performance in Today's Switzerland*). They are far too absorbed trying to divine which of the 327,466 works exhibited will be plucked to stardom as the Book of the Fair.

Last year it was *The Horse Whisperer*, a novel which propelled its author, Nicholas Evans, from his Stockwell study to international renown. This year, however, the two most talked-about books at the fair are the story of Fred and Rosemary West by two of their children, and Nick Leeson's memoirs, not yet written.

The first two parts of the West

book, based on interviews conducted with Mac and Stephen West by two British journalists, have already been written. The third will be based on the trial. Leeson, youthful nemesis of Barings Bank, wants to write his own story, but not even the author can say with any certainty that he will be able to do so since his fate is in the hands of a German appeal court and subject thereafter to either the mercies of British or Singaporean justice.

Leeson's agent is the energetic London-based Ed Victor, who has been bounding around the booths of Frankfurt auctioning the memoirs-to-be. The bidding is said to top £450,000 and Little Brown was last night reported to have pulled off the deal. Meanwhile, the alleged fraudster is awaiting a final extradition ruling in jail.

Competition is stiff among books chronicling the doings of anti-heroes. The popularity of memoirs of those accused, or even convicted of crimes and other misdemeanours, has grown apace in the last decade, to become one of the fastest expanding parts of the publishing industry.

After a lawyer, the second person anyone arrested on suspicion of partaking in a colourful or unusual bout of law-breaking is likely to see these days is a literary agent. This seems to be mainly an Anglo-American phenomenon. For accounts of wrong 'uns, ne'er-do-wells and downright villains, search out the English-language halls. Here Heinemann is selling the memoirs of Howard Marks, the Oxford graduate who has just been released after serving seven years

of a 25-year prison sentence for drug dealing and money laundering. "Told with humour, charm and candour," bubbles the publicity. This another popular criminal — patron saints of the genre: Ronald Biggs and the Kray twins — is born.

This can, however, be difficult territory to chart, both morally and commercially. One country's figure of fascination and mystery is another's anathema. Markus Wolf, the East German spy master, has long since sold world rights of his recollections to an American publisher. The book is still searching for a domestic German option after a division of the Bertelsmann concern abruptly withdrew its signature offer. The company board apparently had second thoughts about publishing the memoirs of a

man who sowed discord within the Bonn Establishment for decades and brought down Chancellor Willy Brandt by placing a spy in his office.

I agreed to work on Wolf's memoirs, helping to shape the edition for non-German readers, because I believe that the story of intelligence in the Cold War and the hidden intricacies of the East-West German relationship during that period cannot be fully understood without his testament — subjected, of course, to as much sceptical inquiry and cross-questioning as the publisher and I can muster between us.

But where do we, as readers, writers or members of the book industry draw the line? Memoirs are by their very nature part

apologia. They demand that we enter the subject's world and try to understand his convictions and actions. We do not have to accept the conclusions drawn or the measures taken, but we are compelled to examine how they came about. Memoirs broaden the mind — or at least exercise it in a way which biography written by a third person does not.

Minds broaden and contract in accordance with the geographical and temporal proximity to controversial events. Thus Gerry Adams received a reverent welcome in Frankfurt as he promoted his memoirs to warm interest from foreign publishers who say that they consider his story as the moving tale of a man's decision to renounce violence and seek peace.

The British, however, are still

nervous about the project. As the head of a major London house said: "We're not ready for his story yet. But that can change very fast. Yasser Arafat was considered beyond the pale for years. Now everyone is chasing him."

The Mephistophelean question with which publishers and agents are now struggling is what they would do if, as everyone expects, O.J. Simpson's autobiography is offered for sale. In the States he is currently considered untouchable by most respectable publishing firms, despite the not guilty verdict.

The logic of this position is that a valuable memoir, while rarely free of lies, fudges or omissions, should reveal an essential truth about the subject's life. Few people expect that O.J. could risk such frankness.

That did not stop one British agent musing: "It would be such a massively lucrative contract that I would be irresponsible to my business if I didn't do it." Guess which view will win out in the end.

The power of the vernacular

Why we need to do more to foster the gift of the gab

Gillian Shephard wants us to talk better. She says we are a nation of grunts. She will spread the glory of Standard English and is offering nothing less than a government committee and money to the cause.

Oblivious of irony, she delivered her homily at that festival of linguistic abuse, the Conservative Party conference. Dickens's master cutter of the vernacular, Sam Weller, would have shed a tear and cried: "That port's blacker'n a Puritan's hat at midnight, an' in no persuasion to insult an 'onest kettle." Mrs Shephard, he would declare, "has the gift o' the gab wey gallopin'."

All enthusiasts for English must give an obligatory cheer. But I fear an obsession with marginalia is a sign of a crumbling regime. Mussolini ordered that every Italian child's name end in a vowel. Sukarno fixed women's skirt

I have attended conferences galore. I have witnessed launches, presentations, seminars, lectures, lunches, dinners without number. Almost every one is blighted by a dreadful speech (sometimes, I fear, by myself). Here is a truly dying art. Small wonder the smartest presentations now use a video with an Autocue, at whatever price. Yet we still expect someone who would not dream of singing in public, or playing a violin, or cooking a soufflé, to stand up and imitate a Cicero or a Gielgud. Ask of the organiser of an event if the room will be warm, the food good, the company joyful and you will be assured that no effort has been spared. Ask if the speaker will make you laugh, cry, or want to shake him by the hand, and you will be told that is not luck.

The most extravagant wedding can be wrecked by embarrassing, ill-prepared speeches. If they cannot be enjoyed, they must be endured. Nowadays there is no such thing as a too-short speech. If this is what Mrs Shephard means to rectify, I am with her. Verbal fluency, the presentation of ideas and arguments in public, is not just for speech-makers. Everybody needs it, in interview or meeting, in encountering strangers or leading groups in conflict.

Samuel Butler derided the study of rhetoric as teaching an orator "nothing but to name his tools". But at least he was taught the tools. Who now in school or university is instructed in the simplest skills of rhetoric, the use of anecdote, wit, dialect, word length, eye contact, rhythm, above all timing?

Spoken language should delight an audience, not punish it. The Victorian facility of speaking English of perfect cadence — like the ability to write grammatical letters — seems as lost today as the fashioning of a Puginian arch or a Tennysonian stanza. The Prince of Wales may find an institute for the revival of classical architecture. There is no institute for the revival of classical rhetoric.

I sense that Mr McDonald will not find one. What he and Mrs Shephard mean to do is further detail the nationalised curriculum by demanding 20 per cent of GCSE English be separately tested by oral examination. This looks ominously like our old bugar, Standard English. We are back in dropped aitches territory.

This week we heard of the nation's favourite poem, *If*, Kipling's rewrite of Polonius's far snappier advice to a young man. But Kipling would get short shrift from Mrs Shephard and Mr McDonald. He appreciated, and turned into poetry, the subtlest inflections of English, accent and dialect. He found metre in bad grammar and could make cockney sing.

Kipling glorified the language of the slum and the barrack room. What would the new inspectorate of Standard English make of Mandala? "An' I seed her first a-smoking' of a whackin' white cheroot. An' a-wastin' Christian kisses on an 'eathen idol's foot. Blooming' idol made o'mud! Wot they called the Great Gawd Budd! Plucky lot



Sam Weller and the *Pickwick Papers* — would he pass Mrs Shephard's Standard English test today?

she cared for idols when I kissed 'er where she stud." Like Kipling, Dickens too found power in the vernacular. "That 'ere young lady," said our friend Mr Weller, "she knows wot's wot, she does." Such language is clear, potent, untranslatable, and precious.

We ridicule the French for the linguistic policemen of their Academy, we glory in tolerating the variety of English, its patois and its pignons, and the vitality of its regional accents. Mrs Shephard apparently feels that having just 10 per cent of children leaving school with Standard English is insulting our national culture and impeding their employability. I do not believe either thesis.

Listening to the speeches at the party conferences, I notice that the British voice is being channelled into just two versions: the public school plummy of a Patrick Mayhew or the London drone of a John Major. Disappearing are the Welsh and High-

land lilt, the West Country burr, the windswept vowels of the Pennines or the twang of the Midlands. Equally endangered by standardisation are "improper" constructions: the cockney double-negative of "I ain't going nowhere", Celtic grammars such as "Is it well that you are?" or the archaic delights of Scots English, "And gie's a hand o' mine."

Of course Mrs Shephard says that she does not mean to "stamp out playground slang or regional accents". Standardisers always say that; it is in the Whitehall brief. But if Britons brought up in non-standard traditions wish to talk like educated southerners, they are free to do so and teachers are free to teach them. The television news is at their service. My horror is of a thousand Henry Higginses pouring out of Whitehall, under the banner of the compulsory nationalised curriculum, to get every schoolchild inecanting in unison "The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain..."

The accents of provincial (and metropolitan) Britain are indivisible from their gram-

mars and dialects. A child can be as fluent, as entertaining, as communicative, in non-standard English as was Sam Weller. Seeking to protect them is not some capitulation to theme-park Britain. These voices are not the verbal equivalent of thatched roofs, shire horses and black pudding. They are a distinctive form of speech, which we should be able to switch into and out of as we might a foreign language. But they are dying. They need the same respect as dying tongues. They do not need another regiment of policemen, inspectors, monitors and meddlers.

Mrs Shephard should teach rhetoric by all means, but save us from Standard English. Leave the languages of Britain to the likes of the improper Mr Burns:

Some rhyme a neebor's name to lash:
Some rhyme (vain thought) for needfu' cash
Some rhyme to court the country lass
An' raise a din.
For me, an' aim I never fash,
I rhyme for fun.

Jonathan Clark asks who will capture the Tory party's soul

Peterhouse v All Souls

Significantly, the two leading contenders for the Tory party's soul are identified with sharply defined intellectual schools. Both were trained as historians in colleges that had a unique exposure to public affairs, generally resisted, or denounced elsewhere in academia: John Redwood at Keble College, Oxford; Michael Portillo at Maurice Cowling's Peterhouse.

"Compare and contrast," the history examination will ask a century hence. Seldom are the alternatives so well articulated: Tony Blair and John Prescott, Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich are merely themselves, but behind Portillo and Redwood stand intellectual traditions that can determine how their party sees itself.

Before the Conservatives' recent divisions came a breakdown of their ability to define and interpret their recent past. Thatcherism was a movement dependent on a historical vision of modern British society.

Since Margaret Thatcher's fall, the party has been seeking out conflicting interpretations of its last decade. Was her deposition a renunciation of all that she stood for? Or just a before the enterprise to others?

What response will win future success? The most interesting answers can be traced back to mindsets which had their origin at All Souls and Peterhouse. These were very different training grounds in almost every way: one high-minded, the other deliberately low-minded; one part of the Establishment, the other a scholarly guerrilla movement against progressive academe.

Both produced Conservative thinkers and politicians in the 1970s. All Souls was home to Robert Jackson, William Waldegrave and John Redwood. Peterhouse, to Roger Scruton and Michael Portillo. The Peterhouse mindset, explained why policy is subservient to politics. Sir Herbert Butterfield had pioneered a programme to move professional scholarship away from the old Whiggish certainties. Butterfield handed on the baton to Maurice Cowling, who dominated Peterhouse's history in the late 1960s and 1970s and who taught Portillo.

The All Souls vision: vision: the Conservative Party was "the main guardian" of conservatism, but "cannot claim to monopolise the support of conservatives". With John Redwood, the public service ethic acquired just such an overarching content. Redwood's academic career had already produced two impressive books, *Reason, Rhetoric and Religion*, and *European Science in the 17th Century*. Once in politics, he mapped out the future with surprising accuracy in volumes such as *Public Enterprise in Crisis* (1980), *Going For Broke* (1984), *Popular Capitalism* (1988) and *The Global Marketplace* (1993).

Michael Portillo, meanwhile, published only a scattering of pamphlets, often the texts of speeches. Why give hostages to fortune? Modern democratic politics is normally assumed to be an uncongenial environment for the intellectual. The last Prime Minister from All Souls, the 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, died in 1902. Perhaps significantly, Fellows who subsequently came close to that office, Halifax and Joseph, stood aside in favour of more populist candidates, Churchill and Thatcher.

Who becomes Prime Minister in 2002 is one question; who explains what that victory means may be quite another.

The author is a Fellow of All Souls

Brassed off

BATTLE LINES have been drawn at the Cavalry and Guards Club in Piccadilly because the club's executive committee has just awarded honorary membership to Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, the Chief of Defence Staff. Bewildered troops are appalled, saying it is "beyond a joke" to honour a man who has presided over cuts that have traumatised their regiments.

The kernel of unrest stems from the Cavalry Colonels' Committee, a

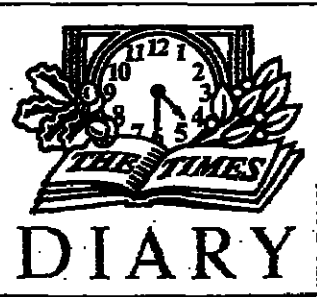
gathering of club members and other cavalrymen which meets twice a year. It has fired off a salvo to the club chairman to complain. "The bloody man has done more to damage the cavalry than the Russian guns at Balaclava," thunders one old buffer. "Inge led an assault which resulted in the abolition of the treasured regimental bands. It's disgraceful."

A spokesman for the club stands his ground. "I am very surprised at this reaction. Sir Peter Inge is a particular friend of many of our members and is very well respected. The committee of the club endorsed the chairman's decision. He is coming to speak to members in the near future." He would be advised to bring an armed guard.

● A Freudian typing error slipped into a press release handed out yesterday by Labour's Jack Straw at the Conservative Party conference. "The way forward," it read, "is Tory Blair."

Adoring

PRINCESS Dora Loewenstein, the daughter of the Rolling Stones' business manager Prince Rupert Loewenstein, has been hiding her



literary light under a bushel all these years. She is about to embark on a sure-fire bestseller: the first official biography of the Stones.

The book will be published in 1997 but it has been the talk of the Frankfurt Book Fair this week. Mal Peachey of Virgin Publishing, which won the battle to sign the book, says Dora has been given exclusive access to the band's archives and that Jagger has promised to pose for photo sessions wearing all the tour costumes he can still fit into.

"All the Stones have known Dora since she was a child, which is great," says Peachey. "It will all be in there."

● Concentration on the platform faltered briefly during John Major's speech at Blackpool yesterday. A note was passed surreptitiously to Brian Mawhinney at 11.05am revealing that the Prime Minister had failed, against expectations, to

win the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize. As Michael Heseltine tried to peer over his shoulder at the note, the party chairman handed it to Norman. She merely smiled.

Seeing red

DEREK HATTON has taken offence at the suggestion in an Oxford Union Society advertisement announcing that he is to speak at the university. Degsy was due to speak on Tuesday, billed as a "controversial Liverpoolian Councillor and Militant Leader... decidedly not new Labour." Degsy speaks out, and will not take your questions.

Not any more. He has pulled out and refuses to take any questions. "I have had a blazing row with them because it is totally wrong," he says. "They call me a councillor. I haven't been one since 1987. They call me a Militant leader. I haven't been since 1986. They've no right to say I'm not new Labour. I may or may not be." Matt Guy, president of the Oxford Union, is sanguine: "We are very disappointed but hope he will come again."

Small talk

SPOTTED lunching yesterday at Monte's, the fancy new Knightsbridge club for movers and sheikhs, was the suave former

King Constantine of Greece and the dishing Prince Ernst of Hanover. Lashings of ginger beer appeared to lead to a silly game of mobile phone-juggling involving laughter and a great deal of convivial conversation. A right royal life they lead.

Boning up

CATHERINE MCCORMACK, the 23-year-old convent girl from Hampshire who plays Mel Gibson's wife in the Scottish epic *Braveheart*, is researching her next role — in the dinosaur hall at the Natural History Museum. She is to play a palaeontologist in a film



Cathy McCormack: big chill

which will start shooting later this month and has been mugging up on dinosaurs.

Catherine has yet to recover from being so rudely dispatched in *Braveheart* — she has her throat slit — and the memory of the chilly weather in Scotland and Ireland where it was filmed still lingers. "I seem to specialise in filming in very cold places," she shivers. "I have also filmed in Norway and the new film is in Canada. I will be taking my woolies."

● Radio 3 listeners, outraged over what they believe to be creeping commercialisation of their station, had their fears confirmed the other night. After introducing the love duet from Madame Butterfly the new compère of the early evening In-Tune programme declared: "This is Guy Wolfenden on Classic FM." When the piece finished he added sheepishly: "I must remind you, and me, that this is BBC Radio 3."

Hair apparent

A READER was taken aback the other day on his hole in Finland when he spotted Michael Portillo beaming down from billboards in the town of Turku. Had the Minister of Defence found alternative employment after the lacklustre reception of his extraordinary speech to the Conservative Party conference?

Hilsettä?



Läakekuuri apteekista.

Portillo's dandruff cure?

The model in the poster wears spectacles — but Portillo could easily have slipped on a pair. And his hair, though better controlled than the Defence Minister's, has the hint of a quiff. The Finnish Embassy in London insists, however, that the poster bears the face of a Finn. And a spokesman translated the slogan: "Dandruff? Buy Läakekuuri from your chemist."

P.H.S



"It's more realistic — go to jail twice and you never get out"



WISDOM AND KINDNESS

Major addresses two audiences — in Blackpool and beyond

Carefully, skilfully, and with only the barest admissions of weakness, the Prime Minister draped his personal standard over the Conservative Party yesterday. Recalling that he had given his MPs every opportunity to unseat him this summer, he set out to show that the victor in that leadership contest not only retained the spoils of office for himself but could regain the spoils of government for the army behind his banner too.

His motto was a modest one: "a wise and kindly way of life". Major did not pretend to the visionary arts that he does not possess. He instead pricked at the pretensions to vision held by his principal opponent. Most Tories have shied from direct personal attacks on Tony Blair, preferring to target the old Labour Party behind the new Labour leader. But in the Prime Minister's speech yesterday, Mr Blair was a privileged socialist public school boy who would use socialism to deprive others of privilege; he was a trivial opportunist whose chief memory of VJ-Day was the anti-Tory cries that came to him from the crowd; and as for his much-vaunted philosophy, it was self-deceiving double-think that ill contrasted with the Tory virtues of Mr Major's father, the ornament-maker whose boots the knockers and sneers were not even fit to wipe.

Many in the Blackpool audience were visibly moved by this. The speech did not fire them with the fervour of Tory progress. But it did fill them with a sense of their leader's decency, modesty and his experience of the harsh real world that they could contrast with Mr Blair's north London life in Islington and at the Bar.

But, as representatives left for home, the substantial electoral question remained: "After four terms, why a fifth?" That was the specific challenge that Mr Major posed and set out to meet. It is a question that many wavering Tories ponder. They are searching for a good reason not to vote Labour at the next election: so far they have not heard it.

The Prime Minister was cursed by the

need to address two quite different audiences yesterday. The men and women in the Winter Gardens wanted their confidence restored and their spirits lifted. They did not want to be reminded of the dire state of their party — in the polls, in the ballot boxes and in public esteem. Outside, however, are voters who seek evidence that the Prime Minister has some understanding of their anxieties. His did not sound like the speech of a leader whose party is still 25 points behind. There was nothing about job insecurity, no recognition of the squeeze on personal incomes of those in work, no apology for broken promises on tax.

This conference was flat in spirit. Representatives were freer than before from anxiety about their leaders' squabbling. But they were no less beleaguered. They were happy to take inspiration wherever they found it — whether from a polemically Eurosceptical Michael Portillo or a One Nation Michael Heseltine. What they wanted from Mr Major was a sense of direction for the whole party and a lesson in how to deal with the threat from Labour. What they were offered was a good sense of their leader, One Nation Toryism at home and Euro-scepticism abroad.

The substance of the Tory attack now must be to adopt policies that Labour cannot match. Whether it is doubling the assisted places scheme, increasing sentences for criminals or holding out against European federalism, the political battle over the next 18 months will be to ensure that the Conservatives have defined enough positions that contrast with Labour's.

Will that be enough to deliver the fifth term that Mr Major seeks? On the evidence of the past two weeks, the Tories are the old party and Labour the young. Mr Blair will harness the energy of his own youth and of his activists to revive Britain as a "young" country again. To counter this, Mr Major will need more momentum than that which comes from wisdom and kindness.

HOT IN PARIS

A steamy prelude to a winter of discontent

However exhausted Tory ministers may be after Blackpool, they cannot have as much need of le weekend as Alain Juppé. The French Prime Minister has had an appalling week. Only the weather has smiled — and that brought out the workers in the biggest public sector strike in a decade. A fresh assault on the franc has driven up interest rates and new statistics show a sharp drop in growth and investment.

On a more personal note, M Juppé spent half the week wondering whether he would be forced to resign. In the event, he escaped legal proceedings for improperly securing artificially low rents for the apartments which he and his son lease from the City of Paris. But it was a narrow escape. In return for a promise by M Juppé to move house, the public prosecutor decided instead to close the affair with a judicial reprimand. The affair has wounded M Juppé politically just as his popularity is melting.

To cap it all, it appears that M Juppé may not long be able to count on the full support of the President. In a "private" meeting with journalists this week, Jacques Chirac not only demanded clearer signs from M Juppé that his Government is serious about fiscal austerity. He pointedly observed that "no one can govern for long in opposition to the money markets, trade unions and employers. Not to mention judges".

The President's hint at a link between M Juppé's lack of reforming dynamism and the scandal over his apartment is particularly wounding because it goes to the nub of what the French object to in the Establishment, of which M Juppé is so consummately a product. The affair opens another small window on an insider's world of power, in which unacknowledged perks of high office are so widely taken for granted that M Juppé

may genuinely have seen nothing untoward about privileged access to housing.

The much wider question this embarrassing business therefore raises is whether M Juppé is the man to take a broom to the cosy networks that M Chirac vowed, in his campaign for the presidency, to dismantle. These include the public sector unions who took to the streets this week. For all their complaints, they have in fact seen their pay rise far faster than that of the private sector since 1990. Their membership is so numerous because nearly a quarter of French workers are employed by the State.

The evidence so far is that M Juppé is incapable of radicalism. His budget evaded hard decisions about public spending, relying instead on increased taxation. His approach to France's high unemployment is more subsidy, rather than deregulation. When Alain Madelin, his first choice as finance minister, insisted on putting the public finances on a sustainable footing, M Juppé swapped him for Jean Arthuis, a self-effacing bureaucrat. Now even M Arthuis is turning critic. In five short months, the Government has lost much of its credibility.

M Juppé's reaction to this sea of troubles will reassure neither voters nor the financial markets. He was foolish to borrow old Socialist habits and blame speculators for the franc's troubles. He made a laughing-stock of himself when officials were instructed by the Matignon to cancel their subscriptions to *Le Canard Enchaîné*, the satirical French magazine which broke the story about his apartment. But if M Juppé flounders, M Chirac will not escape blame. Too little has been heard from the Elysée. M Chirac may well be tempted to have another of those "private" conversations: this time, with the truly radical M Madelin.

HYMNS BRIGHT AND DUTIFUL

This English song form needs to be ancient as well as modern

A hymn of thanks for microchips, for oven chips, computer chips may sound self-consciously modernist. And the new Mothering Sunday hymn, *God, you hold me like a mother*, bends over backwards to flaunt its feminist credentials. These are two of 83 new hymns for children under eight years old, published today by the Methodist Church after the report of a working party from the Council of Churches.

Britain's latest hymnbook could excite horror or derision. But hymns have always been tribal incantations on the fault line between mumbo-jumbo and poetry. Nobody in the Holy Land has ever been unduly bothered by snow on snow in the bleak midwinter. And bad boys have always had the shepherds washing their socks rather than watching their flocks by night.

In the golden age of hymnology, John Wesley was moved to write 6,000 hymns in protest against "the scandalous doggerel" that had gone before. But even some of those new Methodist hymns with their repetitions sound ludicrous today, as in "He's our best bul-bul. He's our best bul-bul. He's our best bul-wark still". Or "And catch the flee-And catch the flee-And catch the fleeing hour".

Hymns are a tug-of-war between ancient and modern. Older members of a congregation cling to familiar hymns, which to their juniors are not a spiritual consolation but a

supportive. Just as harvest festivals today display tins of baked beans instead of stooks, which are alien to the modern corn, few today plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land. It is all done by juggernaut tractor with computer and 32 drills at a time.

Modern children, who would not know one end of a lamb from the other, can almost all identify with *Riding in a car on the motorway*. Today's most popular hymns were considered vulgar when they were introduced. This was because they were not in Latin, like the triumphant *Vexilla regis* by Fortunatus from the dawn of Christianity.

Yet such hymns as *Awake, my soul, Rock of Ages, Hark the herald angels sing*, and *When I survey the wondrous Cross* have become national spells. They are populist poetry and music. Each generation has to write its hymns to reinterpret the old stories, as well as preserving the comfortable old ones.

Hymn-singing is a peculiarly English activity, as descanted by congregations and choral societies across the land. Such new hymns as *Here's a party! Let us share! Bread and wine! With Jesus here may be* become favourite items in the national hymnbook for future generations. But in case they have a short pew-life, it is just as well that these new hymns supplement but do not completely replace such old favourites as *Abide with me* and *O God, our help*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Home Secretary's plans for a tougher fight on crime

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, You say (leading article, October 13) it is "self-evident that public confidence in sentencing policy has been eroded". It is far from self-evident that Mr Howard's plans will restore that confidence.

Mandatory penalties offend against fundamental principles of justice. An increased prison population will do little or nothing to reduce crime. And unless there is a massive increase in resources, chaos threatens the Prison Service.

What a pity Mr Howard does not dust off the speeches of his distinguished predecessor, Douglas Hurd, and educate the public on the limitations of criminal justice as an instrument of crime control. Indeed, it is sad that the announcement of a new Crime Prevention Agency, which seems intended to disseminate best practice and coordinate the work of different institutions, was given such a small part in Mr Howard's address.

If we spent on prevention even a fraction of the time and money devoted to punishment we might really begin to build a safer, less crime-prone society.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW,
Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
The Old Trading House,
15 Northburgh Street, EC1,
October 13.

From Dr Anne Forrester

Sir, Why is the Lord Chief Justice so worked up by the proposal to specify minimum sentences for certain crimes (report, October 13)? The judi-

ciary is already similarly limited by specified maximum sentences.

Despite complaints that prison neither deters nor reforms the criminal, in the case of violent crime and repeat offences most people would regard protecting themselves and their families and property by locking up the villains as being more important.

Perhaps the Home Secretary should have promised that persistent juvenile offenders who are clearly out of parental control will also be kept in secure units where they can no longer cock a snook at police, the courts and the public.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE FORRESTER,
As from: 946 Dogwood Court,
Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464,
October 13.

From His Honour Judge Barrington Black

Sir, I have dealt with the dishonest for 40 years but could not believe my eyes when this afternoon I saw on television an ecstatic audience jump for joy when Mr Michael Howard announced "automatic remission outrages the victim", spoke with disdain of a "sentence of two years meaning out in one", and proposed that a previous conviction would influence a subsequent sentence.

Did Mr Howard not recall that automatic remission and disregard of previous convictions formed the main plank of his Government's Criminal Justice Act of 1991?

Yours faithfully,
BARRINGTON BLACK,
The Crown Court,
Harrow, Middlesex,
October 12.

Clamping tax evaders

From Mr Gareth Boote

Sir, During my police service I encountered a variety of reasons for the failure to display a tax disc ("Car tax dodgers will be clamped", October 12).

The majority were cases of evasion. There were three significant minority categories: firstly, the disc had simply fallen from the windscreen; secondly, the disc had been stolen and the owner was awaiting a duplicate; thirdly, an impetuous motorist had failed to display the disc for 24 or 48 hours pending the clearance of a salary cheque. In the last three instances prosecution could be dispensed with by inquiries either at the scene or subsequently.

Does the Transport Secretary propose to incorporate any safeguards in his clamping scheme, or will a minority of decent folk be held to ransom by private operators on performance-related pay?

Yours faithfully,
GARETH BOOTE,
13 Bathaston Grove,
Leigh, Lancashire,
October 12.

Freud and science

From Mr Richard Webster

Sir, Nigella Lawson's main complaint about my book, *Why Freud was Wrong: Sin, Science and Psychoanalysis* (review, October 5), is that I criticise psychoanalysis for being a false science. In her view this misses the point since "psychoanalysis is not a science at all".

She goes on to write that the "notion of psychoanalysis as a scientific set of beliefs owes most to anti-Semitism: it was after all derided as the Jewish science". These words might be taken to imply that I have uncritically accepted an anti-Semitic caricature of psychoanalysis.

But while it is true that Freud's ideas were denigrated for being "Jewish", the idea that anti-Semitism is largely responsible for the image of psychoanalysis as a science is fiction. As Lawson admits, it was Freud himself who claimed the title of scientist. Moreover it was he who wrote that psychoanalysis "has put us in a position to establish psychology on foundations similar to those of any other science, such, for instance, as physics".

It is Freud's scientism that I criticise and it seems to me that Nigella Lawson has turned this part of my argument upside down.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WEBSTER,
Hall Cottage,
South Green,
Southwold, Suffolk,
October 8.

Pleasure in 'Pride'

From Miss Alison M. Curry

Sir, I totally agree with Susan Elkin ("Prejudiced against TV", Education, October 6; letters, October 10, 12) in that there can be no substitute for Jane Austen's novels. It was Austen who created the characters; only she has the power and authority to tell us exactly what they thought, said and did. No dramatist has the right to alter this.

However, an adaptation such as the BBC's is, for some of my fellow pupils at school who do not know her writings, an invaluable visual recreation of Jane Austen's England, with its society and manners so different from those of today.

A television adaptation also provides stimulation to read the dramatised work. Our sixth-form common

Patriotism and our place in Europe

From Dr A. D. Farr

Sir, Several true-blue Tories have used your columns (October 12, 13) to slate Michael Portillo's anti-British speech. I agree with him. I believe that he said publicly about Europe what many voters have long been saying privately.

If political union in Europe is really such a good thing why is it that our leading political parties refuse to ask whether the people agree? With all the parties adopting a pro-European Union stance anyone who is pro-Common Market (which is what we were "sold" in the first place) but anti-United States of Europe (which is where France and Germany are seeking to drag us) is effectively disfranchised.

With parliamentary democracy thus discredited (after all, none of our MPs has a specific mandate from the electorate on this issue), what is so wrong with a referendum to clear up the matter once and for all?

Yours faithfully,
A. D. FARR,
Tullochven House,
Lumphannan, Aberdeenshire,
October 13.

From Major-General Julian Thompson

Sir, In attacking Mr Portillo's somewhat puerile speech, Mrs Edwina Currie also uttered complete nonsense (report, October 12): "To suggest that

Gaelic television

From Mr Matthew MacIver

Sir, In his adverse comparison between the £4.7 million of public funding provided annually to Scottish Opera and the "whopping" £8.7 million given to something called the "Gaelic TV Fund" (Richard Morrison (Arts, October 7) seems to be suggesting that Gaelic-speaking Padraig (Peter) should be mugged to allow opera-going Paul continued access to performances which are already heavily subsidised.

The Gaelic Television Fund, which has already suffered a substantial cut at Scottish Office hands, was established in January 1993 in response to a widespread feeling in Scotland that some public funding should be injected into the provision of television programmes in Gaelic. Some 70 programmes or series have been made as a result. A number of these have attracted Scottish audiences in excess of 500,000.

The Gaelic language — together with the wider culture to which Gaelic gives access — has been integral to

From the Chair of the Penal Affairs Consortium

Sir, A wealth of evidence supports the Lord Chief Justice's view that the Home Secretary's new sentencing proposals will not deter crime.

However, less attention has been paid to the potential increase in crime and its ill effects which Mr Howard's measures could produce. They would seem to abolish parole as we know it: yet Home Office research has shown that the parole system produces markedly lower reconviction rates than would otherwise have been expected from parolees' records and characteristics.

These proposals would also almost certainly increase violent criminal acts within prisons by virtually eliminating the most powerful incentive to good behaviour: possible early release.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CAVADINO,
Chair,
Penal Affairs Consortium,
169 Clapham Road, SW9,
October 13.

From Mr Stephen Zollner

Sir, The trouble with a policy of "x strikes and you're out", as experience in the United States seems to show, is that it discourages pleas of guilty.

This is particularly worrying in relation to sexual offences, where much distress can be caused to victims giving evidence.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN ZOLLNER,
Old Square Chambers,
1 Verulam Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1,
October 12.

Cost of courtesy in computers

From Dr Michael H. Kay

Sir, David Walton's theory (letter, October 10) that computer systems only allow two initials because of the cost of storage simply doesn't hold water. The extra disk space for a third initial would cost less than £1 per million names.

The real reason is that the programmers who wrote these systems were too busy worrying about something else. Compared with the pressure to get the system working on time, the question of how many initials to provide would be seen as a cosmetic luxury.

Handling of personal names is actually remarkably difficult. It's not only people with three initials whom programmers have to worry about. They have to think about aristocratic clients such as Sir John and Lady Bull, the Duke of Eton, and of course Viscount de Sade of that ilk and his daughter Fiona.

They also have to consider the *nouveau riches*, such as Sting, Cher and William Gates III. (Dear Mr III, there has never been a better time to take out a loan...) So it's hardly surprising that programmers in a hurry take a few short cuts.

The great hope is that one enterprising supplier will devise the ultimate name-handling routine, and the rest of the world will stop reinventing the wheel. This requires a new approach to building software systems from off-the-shelf components, which is only just starting to become accepted practice.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL H. KAY,
52 Matlock Road,
Caversham Heights,
Reading, Berkshire,
October 11.

From Professor Harold Thimbleby

Sir, Mr David Walton claims that the mishandling by computers of people's initials is a matter of "pure economics". If so, then it proves what low regard is paid to common courtesy.

I find it hard to see how to do worse than 50,000 initials per penny, even by being imaginatively naive. What economics puts that sort of cost per person above customer relations? Further, by acknowledging that people's names and initials are of various lengths (consider: Th. Clausen, J.-L. de la Grange, or my daughter's name, J.C.M. Thimbleby) actual savings are possible: so even the basis of costing initials is exposed as simplistic. There are further techniques, such as compression, which not only save space and money but can also make the computers run faster.

Economics, then, is not the issue, unless by that one means the savings of employing cheap programmers who are technically ignorant or who care little for the human impact of their work.

I recommend that anyone mistreated by a computer should complain, and make the point in their complaint that the issue has nothing to do with the computer itself (nor its economics) but everything to do with bad planning in the organisation using it.

Yours sincerely,
HAROLD THIMBLEBY
(Professor of Computing Research,
Middlesex University,
Faculty of Technology,
Bounds Green Road, N11,
October 10.

From Mr Robert N. Hector

Sir, Mr Walton is talking about the past. In today's personal computer networks, disk storage costs about £250 for more than 1,000 million characters, or enough to store all the initials of the UK population several times over.

Years ago, when computers were very expensive, someone, probably using US data, decided how big our names were allowed to be. They did the same with addresses, which is why so many computers do not have enough address space. Fortunately the philosophy of providing what the user actually needs is beginning to catch on, and the companies which for years imposed their inadequate systems on us are in decline.

I look forward to the time when my wife (Mrs Cornelius) and I are no longer addressed as Mr Hector and Mrs Corn. We are certainly not going to shorten our names.

Yours truly,
ROBERT HECTOR,
The Old Vicarage,
Burbage, Marlborough, Wiltshire,
October 10.

From Mr J. D. Harkness

Sir, Mr Walton leads one to agonise whether the computer serves mankind, or the reverse.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. HARKNESS,
10 The Limes, Linden Gardens, W2,
October 10.

Special offer

From the Reverend Graham Jeffery

Sir, I have just received a letter from BT saying the discount on some phone calls "will drop slightly, from 10% to 5%". What would constitute a "large drop"?

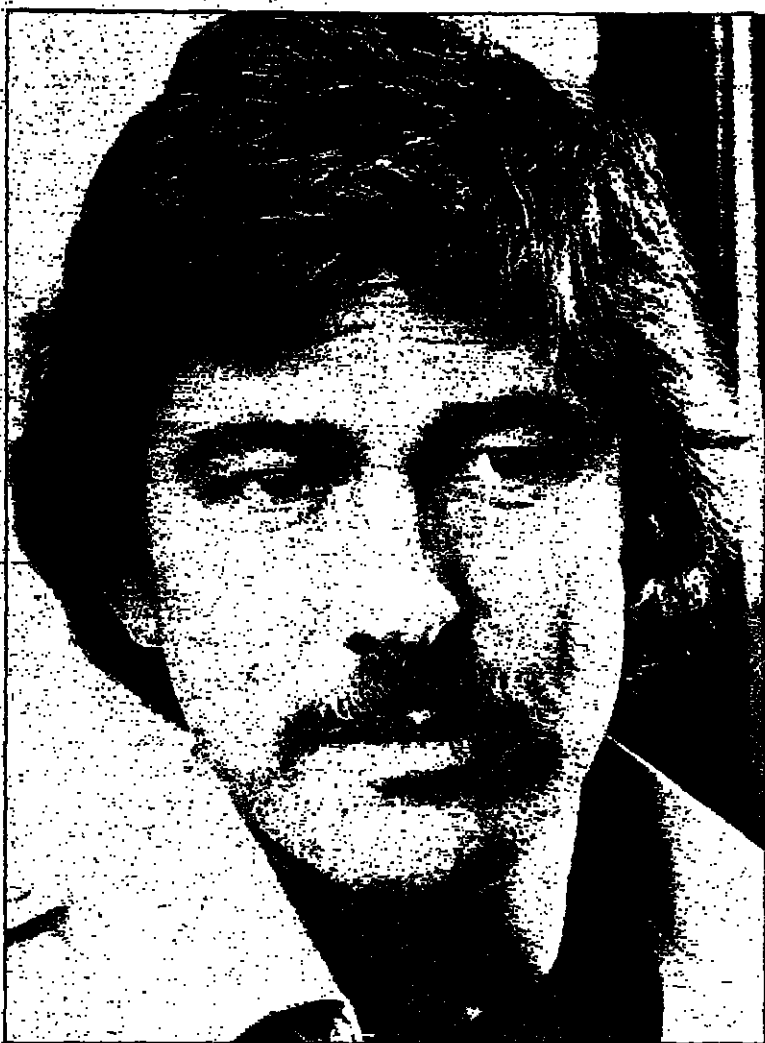
Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM JEFFERY,
Thatcham Rectory,
Pulborough, West Sussex,
October 10.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Yours faithfully,
CARY BAZALGETTE
(Principal Education Officer),
British Film Institute,
21 Stephen Street, W1,
October 10.

GARY BOND

This was followed by his London debut later that year, as Pip in the second Royal Court production of Arnold Wesker's *Chips with Everything*.



handers with Peter Cushing. In 1967 he was Pip in *Great Expectations*, a role which he injected with the right degree of nastiness, and the following year he played Lieutenant-Colonel Clive Russell in Thames TV's Indian Army adventure series *Frontier*. From the way *Frontier* was received by critics, it looked as though the producers had another *Avengers*-style hit on their hands. However, a second series did not follow, Bond suspecting that the

After a gruelling 18 months, performing eight times a week, he decided to take things easy and spent much of the 1980s touring with a programme of Lloyd Webber songs. He returned to acring last year, as George Dillingham in *Aspects of Love*, having sung the role on the original demonstration album in 1988.

Gary Bond remained a bachelor.

During the war Gunz served as a firefighter in London, before joining the Rifle Brigade. But in 1942 he was captured while on night patrol in North Africa and sent to a PoW camp, first near Parma, in Italy, and then in Germany. Among his fellow inmates in the former were the writers Rivers Scott and Eric Newby. At one point he escaped from the Italian camp and for some time sheltered in a verminous cave in the Abruzzi, cared for by local people who faced great personal risk in looking after him. But in 1945 he was taken into German custody, and in the wake of his devotion to Italy was sworn. But attempting to rejoin the British line slowly advancing through the snow, Gunz

It was not until he was in his forties that Gunn began writing, returning to the subject he cared about most — Italy, and most particularly Naples, where he felt uniquely at ease. The travel books which followed, first on Southern Italy (1969) and then on Normandy (1975), Burgundy (1976) and the Yorkshire Dales (1984), reflected his distinctive combination of personal vision, cultural understanding and architectural and historical knowledge. To walk with him, whether in Paris, Rome, Athens or their surrounding landscapes, was an extraordinary

Gunn also won considerable critical acclaim for his biographies, including those on the brilliant and formidable blue-stocking *Vernon Lee* (1964), and on Byron's half-sister, *Augusta Leigh (My Dearest Augusta)* (1968). His interests and sympathies extended to a history of Italy, to studies of the Actions and of Napoleon's mistress, the Duchess of Abrantes. He also edited the Penguin edition of Byron's letters and journals. But, disappointingly, he failed to find a publisher for his study of the Dukes of Urbino, or his work in Italy of Carlyle. He wrote, it seems, though well reviewed, was a little too meticulously refined, and perhaps too much in the spirit of his life. Gunn continued to write with a quiet rigour and imaginative delight.

He is survived by his wife, the author Elizabeth Gunn, and by a son.

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a woman with dark, wavy hair, looking slightly to the right. The image is framed by a thick black border.

Mary and her elder sister, Pauline, were brought up in Bournemouth, the once-fashionable South Coast resort, then favoured by the elderly rich for its reputation for

conferring longevity. Like most of the children of Empire at the time, in their early years they were brought up separated from their parents — in the Malet girls' case by their formidable grandmother. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that Mary should have felt closer to her Dorset nanny,

always known as "Na", than she did to her own family. Like many of the girls of her time, her life was shaped by the rules and snobberies of her family, which bound her as tightly as the feet of the Chinese women her mother had seen in Peking.

Once home from India her only escape - from Bourne-mouth was a finishing school in Paris which was situated next to the house occupied by the glamorous Prince Yussouf, recently notorious for his part in the murder of Rasputin. The girls used to hang out of the windows hoping for a glimpse of the handsome prince, blissfully unaware that he was totally uninterested in them. Mary learnt how to trim a hat, but her French barely progressed beyond the stage of *bonjour* and *bonsoir*. Her pants were bought in the rue de la Pompe. "She had no ear for language or music but she loved clothes and the Parisian chic rubbed off on her. She was slim and elegant. Titter was to describe her as 'the prettiest girl in Hampshire'. She longed to be a model, or marqueequin as they were then called, but her mother ruled that ladies did not work."

Confines of the family home came through her marriage in 1935 to a penniless but amusing artillery officer, Wilfred Hayes, always in those Woodhouseian

days known as "Crusher" because he had boxed for the Army. With him she lived the carefree life of an Army wife in colonial Peshawar and Singapore: a round of parties, golf and sightseeing expeditions.

That life ended in the summer of 1940 when Mary and her 18-month-old daughter, Sarah, were shipped back home, leaving behind a flat that had been posted as an artillery instructor on Salisbury Plain.

After a bomb fell on the local department store, Beale's, shattering placid Bourne-mouth, Mary took refuge with Malet cousins at their remote Somerset house, Chargot. She was always proud of her connections with the Malets, one of the families who famously came over with the Conqueror — her own branch of the family came from Jersey. It was Chagot that she met her second husband, the distinguished New Zealand-born architect and designer, Keith Murray. They were married after her divorce from Henry in January 1948, with Josiah Wedgwood, Keith's friend and patron, as best man. Their daughter, Constance, was born later that year.

Despite, or perhaps because of, her upbringing, Mary preferred village life and was happiest in country surroundings, spending the last 30 years of her life in a Dorset village, Tarrant Gun-

Regatta Thames Cup and Grand Eight crews in 1937 and 1939 and for his college, Queens' College, Cambridge, in 1938. He also received a trial cap at Cambridge.

During the war Kirkpatrick served in the Gloucester Regiment in the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiments both in Greece and Italy. He rose to the rank of major. But once the war was over he went back to his rowing career.

He stroked the Thames RC Stroke in 1946 and won the Regatta in 1947 and 1948, doubling up in the latter year as stroke of the club's Grand Eight, another winning crew. The 1947 and 1948 Thames four was also selected to represent Britain in the World Cup in Cambridge and the Olympics, in both cases failing.

to reach the finals, but in the 1950 Empire Games the Thames four finked up with Leander in an eight and won a bronze for England. Kirkpatrick's final major rowing success came with a third Eynsham eight in 1951.

Of the wartime Kirkpatrick began work with ICI just before the war and, after hostilities, was one of the first members of the newly formed ICI Fibres Division. He remained with the company until 1967 when he was transferred to the Post Office where he was involved with marketing and overseas licensing. He then moved to BT, with whom he remained until his retirement. He retained a relationship with ICI, working subsequently as a consultant.

He was married.

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EVILENT FUND

Charing Cross Hospital

ON THIS DAY
October 14, 1924

The first service of a mission of spiritual healing at Fringinghall Parish Church, Bradford, officiated by the Rev. Dr. Penrose of Bradford (Dr. Penrose), was conducted today by Mr. J.M. Hickson, the Australian missionary. Many sick and suffering people attended.

Mrs. S.H. Pinfold, of 34, Wigan-street, Bradford, who for two years has been suffering from rheumatoid arthritis in both her legs, went to the service with crutches and left with them. Upon leaving the refreshment marquee in the churchyard, however, and approaching the church gate, she paused and asked her attendant to take her crutches, as she found it to walk in the churchyard. She was waiting to take her home. Amid the cheers of a large crowd, Mrs. Pinfold, hairily, but unaided, walked to the car, and when the attendant offered to help her in she replied: "I can manage." She is 60 years of age, has been in Bradford Royal Infirmary three times, and undergone two operations, but she went to meet her husband coming

This healing mission held in a Yorkshire parish church with the "official recognition" of the Bishop of London proved an affecting occasion. Even the clergy in the choir stalls were moved to tears.

from work. She says that she never intends to use her crutches again. She acknowledges that recently she has felt an improvement in her condition, but nothing like that experienced at the mission service, and although not expecting a complete cure immediately she expects a gradual improvement.

Many other sufferers said they felt much better and stronger after the service. It was a pathetic sight to see invalids being brought into the church on stretchers, in both chairs, or being carried. They were cared for by doctors and nurses, and given places in the chancel and the front pews. Stretcher cases were placed immediately in front of the choir

tals. The Rev. J.H. Warner, vicar of Frizinghall, conducted a preliminary service, and Mr. Hickson gave an address. Mr. Hickson then knelt by the stretchers and laid his hands on each patient as he offered a prayer for their recovery.

Following him the Bishop pronounced a blessing upon the sufferers, who were then removed from the hospital. The stretchers cases having been dealt with, others less severe were ministered to, until nearly 400 had been dealt with. Particularly pathetic was the sight of mothers, with babes in their arms, kneeling at the altar steps and holding little ones for Mr. Hickson to pray over and for the Bishop to bless. Most of the mothers were crying and holding up the choir-stalls, who as intoners prayed throughout the service, had tears streaming down their faces.

In his address, Mr. Hickson said he did not come to heal sufferers. He had no such power: behind the act of faith of the laying on of hands was the power of Jesus Christ. Spiritual healing was as old as Christianity, and the Church was trying to revive something very old and very precious. The fact that there were incurables showed the need for something more than medical science, and if the Church was to reveal the person of Jesus she failed in her mission.

MELVYN MARCKUS 26

Our City Editor
focuses
on GrandMetMonday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

WORKING WEEK 27

Change of image
for queen of
Saatchi & Saatchi

SPORT 42-48

Can Alan Ball
ever live up
to former glory?THE HIDDEN
ASSETS
OF POLHILL
Page 27

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14 1995



A royal welcome as the Queen and Kun Hee Lee, the chairman of Samsung, share a joke at the Cleveland plant opening yesterday

Samsung's
royal
launch

By COLIN NARBROUGH

SAMSUNG, the South Korean industrial conglomerate, has acquired a west London site for its planned £80 million European headquarters in one of the biggest property deals in the region this year.

The purchase of the 8.33 acre former Trio site on the Great West Road, Brentford, was announced yesterday in conjunction with the royal opening of Samsung's £450 million electronics complex at Weymouth Park at Billingham, Cleveland. The London HQ complex is expected to create 500 jobs by 2000.

The Queen and Kun Hee Lee, the Samsung chairman, each pulled a lever to start production lines for microwave ovens and computer monitors at the plant, which will create 3,000 jobs by the end of the century.

The Queen said Teesside had a proud record of success in attracting inward investment. Kwang Ho Kim, the Samsung vice-chairman and chief executive, said the complex would become "one of the most important production centres in the world".

Samsung, with a turnover of \$64 billion last year, is one of the world's biggest corporations.

Norwich to pay float
bonuses of up to £700

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NORWICH UNION is likely to pay bonuses of an average of up to £700 to 2.5 million qualifying life insurance policyholders when it seeks a £2 billion stock market flotation.

The bonus payments are expected to be made in free shares when the UK's second biggest mutual insurance company becomes the first to come to the stock market, some time in 1997.

A flotation would enable Norwich Union to take part in the widespread consolidation in the financial services industry. It would use the opportunity to raise extra capital.

The bonus estimations, by an independent actuary using calculations based on embedded value and goodwill, would put Norwich Union payments in line with those paid by building societies to their members recently.

Allan Bridgewater, chief executive of Norwich Union, confirmed that the insurer had been studying the possibility of demutualisation and flotation and that the board had come to a preliminary view "that this course of action would produce significant benefits to members of The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society and assist the overall development of Norwich Union".

He said: "This is a highly complex matter and a great deal of technical and legal work has to be done before a final decision can be made."

Mr Bridgewater said Norwich Union had £33 billion of assets under management and major operations in life and pensions, general insurance and healthcare. In view of the amount of work still to be done, he said it would be well into next year before a further

statement could be made. Norwich Union is expected to inform members at its annual meeting in mid-May. It is understood to be seeking ways of ensuring that all life insurance policyholders benefit from a demutualisation.

The two million policyholders with with-profits policies will get the largest payouts as they have a different status as members of the mutual insurance society. But those with unwith-profits policies who also have voting rights as members are also likely to benefit in some, smaller, way. In total, Norwich Union has 3.3 million life and pension policyholders with voting rights who would benefit in some way - that is 2.5 million individuals.

Norwich Union has not closed its doors to new members to prevent speculative investments. However, it said

that since life insurance policies involve a long-term financial commitment of up to 25 years, the firm "would not recommend anyone to open a contract without taking financial advice. You are talking about making a long-term commitment and that might have tax implications".

The insurer has appointed advisers to examine the legal and actuarial implications of demutualisation and is working towards a flotation in 1997.

The mutual life insurance industry is expected to be next to follow the demutualisation route taken by building societies. Abbey National was first to convert in 1989. Halifax is planning a flotation late next year or early 1997. Alliance & Leicester, Nationwide and the Woolwich are considering whether to become banks.

N&P windfall, page 26

Shares end week
near record high

By MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

SHARE prices on the London stock market extended Thursday's sharp gains, with the FT-SE 100 index coming within a whisker of its highest levels ever. It ended the day 44.2 up at 3,568, less than three points below its closing all-time high, as Wall Street scored gains with the help of some favourable US retail sales figures. However, the FT-SE 100 index failed to hold on to a one-time 60.9 point advance as some investors took profits ahead of the weekend.

The latest advance stretched the rise of the past two days to 94 points, easily wiping out Tuesday's 50-point fall. The rise on the week is 41.5 points. Second line shares also posted gains, though their advance was more modest. The FT-SE

Mid 250 index ended up 8.9 at 3,945.3, but failed to make up lost ground earlier in the week as it finished 33.7 points lower on the week.

Equities continue to be underpinned by bid speculation, with the banks coming under further scrutiny as brokers face up to the possibility of further takeovers within the industry. This follows the news earlier this week of the proposed £13.6 billion merger between Lloyds Bank and TSB Group. Leading share prices were also pushed higher by a bear squeeze in the December FT-SE futures contract.

Government bonds scored gains of almost 11, cheered by the latest distributive trades survey from the CBI.

Colorvision credit
licence under threat

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

COLORVISION, the electrical retailer, is assembling a defence to a threat from the Office of Fair Trading that could jeopardise its business.

The OFT said yesterday that it might revoke Colorvision's consumer credit licence. The company, which is heavily dependent on credit facilities in its 83 stores, has until November 3 to respond to 43 consumer complaints passed to the OFT by trading standards officers.

Thirty of those complaints, which largely relate to the advertising of credit facilities, had been made by the last time Colorvision renewed its credit licence with the OFT in November 1993. Alan Tinger, managing director, said the company had taken action in

response to the complaints, including more staff training. Mr Tinger said Colorvision was shocked by the OFT's announcement. "We understood that if there were future complaints the OFT would contact us rather than take this action. We will be mounting a very robust defence to the accusations."

Colorvision has been prosecuted for trading standards transgressions, including three occasions at Oldham magistrates court. Andrew Glover, principal trading officer at Oldham, said the prosecutions, in which the highest fine levied was £2,000, involved misleading representations of credit terms.

Tempus, page 28

Rover may start spares business

By COLIN NARBROUGH

ROVER, the carmaking group whose £165 million offer for Unipart, its former parts subsidiary, was flatly rejected earlier this year, is on the verge of setting up its own spares distribution arm instead.

The relationship between Rover and John Neill, the Unipart chief executive who currently earns £490,000 a year, has not been good and the carmaker is also considering whether grounds exist for terminating its exclusive spares agreement with Unipart.

The main concerns at Rover are about Mr Neill's management of the company, its performance and increasing focus on the UK market, with heavy reliance on

the Rover dealer network. Unipart, a management buyout in 1987, is seen by many as a success story. Its half-year profits this year, however, were only £10.2 million on turnover of £422.5 million.

Mr Neill said he would refuse all offers from Rover, but is believed to be holding out for an increased offer for the 80 per cent of Unipart that Rover does not own. Crucially, his blessing is required for any substantial sale of shares in Unipart, which is widely regarded as a model of employee share ownership. It employs 3,000, mainly in the Oxford area.

So far, the City institutions with stakes in Unipart have backed Mr Neill. But there are signs that his City backers, which include Electra, Fleming, Standard Life, 3i and Civen, fear that Rover

will walk away from trying to buy back Unipart and start a spares business from scratch to compete with it.

Rover and Unipart are maintaining a silence on the bid and subsequent developments, but City institutions have been told by Rover the company is "no longer in a mind to push for Unipart".

Some 70 per cent of Unipart's business is in Rover spares, for which it has exclusive distribution rights until 2002. Rover estimates that it would cost £200 million to set up its own spares business.

BMW shares Rover's view that spares must form a seamless fit with the carmaking side of the business. In the absence of Mr Neill returning to discuss the offer he rejected, Rover now believes it imperative to look at its other options.

Bonn to
fund
large
aircraft

The German Government has told Daimler-Benz that it is ready to provide DM4.3 billion towards the development of the future large aircraft (FLA).

Bonn's decision on funding the scheme, which involves aircraft makers in several European countries, including British Aerospace, was disclosed yesterday by Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian state premier.

A clear German position should open the way for funding decisions in other capitals and help Daimler to reach early decisions about its restructuring of DASA, its loss-making aerospace division.

Buyout talks

British Coal has entered into discussions with management buyout teams seeking to acquire the corporation's two solid fuels businesses, the last major trading operations to be offered for sale. David Port and other senior executives have formed Heptagon Ltd to buy British Fuels and British Fuels (Oils). Managers of Cawoods of Northern Ireland are in talks with British Coal to buy the company.

Schroders leap

Schroders shares leapt 88p yesterday to close at £13.68 on speculation that one of the last remaining independent merchant banks might be talking to a possible buyer. However, an analyst said the speculation was because Schroders is in the middle of a review of its investment banking business - a process it goes through every three or four years.

Paper deal

Hollinger exercised its option yesterday to acquire 7 million shares of The Telegraph, publisher of The Daily Telegraph and its Sunday sister, at 450p a share. The purchase, which raises Hollinger's interest in the Telegraph from 58.2 per cent to 63.3 per cent, cost about £31.5 million.

WEEKEND
MONEY31
Anne Ashworth
on Budget
tax changes

BANKS

29

Lloyds and TSB.
What the deal
means to us32-33
Tax returns.
US fiscal expertise
arrives in UK

INVESTMENT

35

Venture trusts.
Where angels
dare to tread

WILLS

36

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The risk of not
making a will

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FT-SE All share	1754.15 (+18.75)
Nikkei	17989.85 (+90.57)
New York	4787.35 (+32.51)
Dow Jones	5861.52 (+3.16)
S&P Composite	5861.52 (+3.16)

Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond	7 1/8% (7 1/8%)
Yield	6.31% (6.31%)

3-month Interbank	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Libor 3m	4.88% (4.88%)
Libor 6m	105% (105%)

FT-SE 100	3568.00 (+44.2)
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Is Guinness good for GrandMet?

Perhaps you should buy some shares in GrandMetropolitan. After all, almost everybody else has.

The rerating (a polite word that covers a multitude of sins) of the House that Maxwell Joseph built, but would no longer recognise, started in mid-August. That was when the company held a presentation for fund managers at SBC Warburg which highlighted the continuing benefits of its \$6.5 billion acquisition of Pillsbury, the nucleus of the company's US food division.

Even Cazenove, GrandMet's broker, was reputed to have been impressed by the show and, within the space of two days, the company's share price rose almost 20p to 412.5p compared with a low of 352p earlier this year. Buy circulars from the likes of Salomon Brothers and Goldman Sachs did nothing to

harm and, as the price moved higher, a perennial rumour did the rounds. GrandMet, so the tale went, was poised to sell Burger King, the franchise retail operation that came with Pillsbury. There was precious little goodwill between Pillsbury ("The Ice") based in Minneapolis and its offshoot Burger King ("The Vice") based in Miami but, under GrandMet's ownership, certain management problems ceased. People, as they say, came and went.

It was Ian Martin, of GrandMet, who was originally given the task of ensuring that GrandMet's \$6 billion investment paid off. Martin emerged as chief executive of Pillsbury, identified the likes of Häagen-Dazs for international treatment and displayed greater faith in Burger King's potential than the Ice-men had. Analysts on both sides of the

Atlantic have credited much of Pillsbury's success to the initial stewardship of Martin, who was widely expected to take up the reins at GrandMet in succession to chairman Lord Sheppard. In the event, Martin, GrandMet's former deputy chairman, lost out in a power struggle with George Bull, chief executive. Early last year, Martin let it be known that he had resigned from GrandMet in order to establish a new venture.

The new venture was Glenista Group, a private enterprise financed by Kholberg Kravis Roberts & Co, the Wall Street buyout specialists. Martin is chairman, chief executive and joint founder of Glenista which, according to last February's blurb, "will be opportunistic in seeking out undervalued situations in the UK and western Europe in a wide range of consumer and non-consumer industries."



MELVYN MARCUS

This may include adopting a 'build-up' approach, in which acquisitions are used to build a major presence in an otherwise fragmented industry, or, as appropriate, more substantial acquisitions of established businesses.

KKR's \$25 billion takeover of RJR Nabisco in 1989 was the largest bid in corporate history, representing the climax to Wall Street's leveraged buyout boom of the Eighties. It was this bid, financed almost entirely by debt of the junk variety, that spawned the book *Barbarians at the Gate*.

When Martin and KKR teamed up, Henry R Kravis, a founding partner of KKR, declared: "We are delighted to be participating in this European initiative and to be working with Ian Martin, an accomplished and highly respected manager with wide international experience in the acquisition, restructuring and management of both consumer and industrial companies."

All good stuff but, it has to be pointed out, Glenista has yet to do a deal. Martin, for his part, has also taken on the chairmanship of

Unigate, the UK dairy product specialist.

Meanwhile, the message from George Bull, shortly before GrandMet's end-September financial year, was that second-half trading conditions were broadly unchanged. Bull reported that the Pillsbury food business had seen volumes rise 8 per cent excluding the effects of acquisitions. Burger King had achieved same-store sales growth of 6 per cent, although trading had been disappointing in the UK and continental Europe. On the belief that no news is good news, GrandMet's quote rose to 430p.

Since then, speculation about a bid and break-up of GrandMet has persisted. Lord Sheppard, chairman of GrandMet, is due to retire next year and management reshuffles invariably herald bullish noises, from those who go out and

from those who come in. GrandMet categorically denies any plans to dispose of Burger King, which only serves to lend credence to the takeover speculation.

Tony Greener, Guinness's chairman, has always argued that any acquisitive expansion would focus on the company's core business. On the face of it, this rules out the mooted £6 a share knockout bid for GrandMet which would capitalise the company at around £12 billion. But what if Guinness and KKR launched a joint takeover bid for GrandMet, with IDV (the jewel in GrandMet's crown) going to Guinness, with the non-spirit interests broken up by Martin at KKR? Rumours such as these sent GrandMet's shares up a further 13p to a near 1995 high of 454p yesterday. Some 14 million shares changed hands... for one reason or another.

Long-term N&P savers to get £800 bid windfall

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

ABBEY NATIONAL will spell out the terms of its £1.35 billion acquisition of National & Provincial Building Society to N&P's 1.34 million qualifying investors and borrowers on Monday.

The 860,000 people who have held savings accounts for at least two years before an

N&P qualifying date — understood to be January 1, 1996 — will receive a cash payment of about £800 on top of £500 of Abbey shares already announced. That means an average payment to those longer-term savers of £1,300.

The accounts must remain open until the deal is completed. It is expected to take effect next July or August.

Abbey and N&P agreed the deal in July after N&P held discussions with a group of five potential takeover or merger partners. A formal transfer document will be sent out to members qualified to vote in March. The document will also be part prospectus for Abbey shares, since part of the payment will be made in shares. It will provide full detail of the takeover plans. The plans must be approved by N&P's members at a special meeting, to be held in early April.

N&P stopped opening share accounts on April 28, to prevent a rush of speculative investors.



Lyons: widened search

All 1.34 million savers and borrowers will receive the flat-rate distribution of £500 of Abbey shares. The variable distribution, which will be worth around £700 million, will be given to an estimated 800,000 people who held balances in accounts on two particular dates, up to a maximum of £50,000.

Those dates are understood to be April 28, 1995 when N&P closed its doors to new share accounts, and next summer when the deal is completed.

The calculation will be based on the lower of the balances on each of the two dates.

The transfer document is also expected to run through the merger or takeover options rejected by N&P as well as its reasons for recommending the offer from Abbey. Alastair Lyons, chief executive of N&P, is believed to have held merger discussions with the Nationwide Building Society before an approach from Abbey forced him to widen his search for a partner.

The longer-standing savers who are entitled to the variable distribution are not affected by restrictions in building societies legislation. This means that they can choose to take cash rather than shares, so Abbey is not yet sure by how much its shareholder base will increase.

Abbey converted from building society to bank status in 1989, the first building society to do so. It is expected to make special share dealing arrangements available for N&P members who want to sell their new Abbey shares immediately.

Peugeot sales fall forces output cut

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

PEUGEOT is cutting production at its British plant by up to 3,000 cars this month as the motor industry shows the first signs of suffering from uncertainty over economies at home and abroad.

Ford has already ordered output cuts at its plant at Halewood, on Merseyside, because sales of new cars have refused to grow this year in spite of hopes that the economy was to revive.

Registrations of new cars fell 3.4 per cent last month and the industry sees no signs of improvement, even though manufacturers are throwing more incentives at consumers than ever in the form of discounts, extra equipment and free insurance.

Halewood will lose production of 2,000 cars, worth about £18 million, this month to trim output of its Escort range — the best-selling model in the country — to weakening demand.

Exports are being squeezed at Peugeot after the

market for new cars in France went into a sudden freefall. The Ryon plant at Coventry sends about a quarter of its 2,225-a-week output to France but total registrations there fell 9 per cent in August and 13 per cent last month.

The company will cancel as many as seven days' production this month and put 2,500 workers on maintenance or training. The drop took Peugeot by surprise after the company ordered assembly lines, which make the 306 model, to speed up from 1,600 cars a week earlier this year.

A spokesman for the company said: "We expanded to cope with demand which seems to have disappeared for the moment."

"France has taken a rather sudden dive which means we have to trim output but we hope that things will even themselves out soon with the British market, which is very flat, and France both picking up."

US group backs Rhino rights

By Philip Pangalos

ELECTRONICS BOUTIQUE Inc, the American multimedia retailer that runs a chain of 413 video games stores in the US and Canada, is again coming to the aid of Rhino Group, the UK computer and video games retailer.

EBI, which already owns 25 per cent of Rhino after acquiring the rump of its £3.7 million rescue rights issue in February, is underwriting a £9 million five-for-six rights issue, at 8p a share. As a result, EBI could end up with more than 30 per cent of Rhino, but will not be required by the Takeovers Panel to make an offer for the company.

Joe Firestone, EBI's president and chief executive, will succeed Richard Beecham as Rhino's non-executive chairman.

Rhino accompanied the cash call and management changes with a service agreement with EBI and plans to rebrand all Rhino's Future Zone stores as Electronic Boutique before Christmas. Rhino will carry out store refurbishments over the next few years, and, as part of a new trading

policy, will introduce low pricing and guarantees to match any lower prices in other outlets in the same town.

EBI plans to open ten stores between Seoul in South Korea and Singapore within a year and has agreed to offer Rhino opportunities to expand into continental Europe.

Stock write-offs and reorganisation provisions saw Rhino slide to a pre-tax loss of £6.68 million in the six months to June 30, compared with a loss of £12.2 million last time, on turnover of £183 million (£17.4 million). The loss per share was 5.5p (27p loss). There is again no dividend.

Rhino's year end will change from December 31 to January 31. The company said that the rate of loss incurred in the first half have been stemmed and levels of trading are improving.

John Steinbrecher, managing director, is optimistic about prospects. He said the company's new marketing initiatives were being well received.

Tempus, page 28

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: JENNIFER LAING

Change of image for the queen of advertising

The dynamic chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi has shed her red Ferrari and 'aggressive white desk'. Victoria McKee finds out more

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

ain under Labour with happy, prosperous pictures of Britain today used as the main visual of the conference.

"Although there are, of course, close relationships between Maurice Saatchi and the Tory party, the party is officially still a client of this agency, and we are enjoying working with them," says Laing.

She doesn't often mention the M-word — Maurice Saatchi's name — except to point out that she was chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising for longer and more recently than he was, even before she gave up the autonomy of her own small agency, Laing Henry. It was founded in 1990 with Max Henry, and was bought out by Saatchi & Saatchi for £12 million — of which Laing received a 38 per cent stake — to woo her back to take the helm of S&S once more on April 1 this year.

"Maurice and Charles left the holding company," she stresses, "which was in Berkeley Square. They have not been in this building for ten years." She also emphasises that "it is the holding company that has now been renamed Cordiant. It owns Saatchi & Saatchi, Bates and Zenith, the biggest media

independent, worldwide. We are Saatchi & Saatchi across the world, and the 11,000 people around the world who work for the company feel very strongly about that name. Please get that right, because nobody does." She doesn't even long to see her own name over the door, she loyally protests, because

"Saatchi & Saatchi is too great a brand name". The unimposing 80 Charlotte Street address has always been the nerve centre of S&S, she stresses. The marble monument of a building in Berkeley Square, she seems to feel, was mainly for show. And that kind of showiness is no longer part of the Saatchi & Saatchi corporate culture under Jennifer Laing.

Laing is clearly thrilled to have come "home" to Charlotte Street, whose portals she first entered in 1969 as a graduate trainee from what is now the University of North London. She is also excited that accounts she originally pitched for, like Flynn, and handled there, such as Campbell's, are still with the company. "It's a more loyal business than you think," she asserts. "Contrary to popular opinion, business doesn't tend to follow personalities."

"The agency is the custodian of the brand and the place where clients can be sure of continuity, whereas the average marketing director lasts 18 months." Most of her Laing Henry accounts, though,

followed her back to Saatchi's after the buyout. "The Health Education Authority, like me, came home to Saatchi & Saatchi because it was here as a founder client with that seminal 'pregnant man' advertisement," Saatchi & Saatchi won business worth £24 million in ten days. Laing says proudly, thanks to gaining the Comet account to replace the Currys and Dixons business it had lost. She is pleased that the losses of accounts, such as British Airways and Mars, and people have been stemmed. "We have stabilised," she says, "and made up half of the lost billings in six months."

Now she is trying to meet senior people from all the 60 major Saatchi clients responsible for more than £400 million worth of billings.

"It's very important that I meet them all and take note of their business context, and their key business issues, because if we're developing advertising we need to know the company's overall direction, objectives and philosophy," she says. "We're no longer in the business of just producing 60-second television commercials — we're thinking out a total communications strategy for our clients."

Laing has also rethought her own communications strategy. For a start, that means going high-tech, through client Hewlett-Packard's laptop and the Internet, which brings profits to client BT's wires.

"I've come late to it," admits Laing, who has declared an intention to stay "46-ish" forever. The woman once known as Jennifer "red Ferrari" Laing because of

the status symbol she demanded as part of her remuneration package now drives a comparatively modest Toyota Lexus (another Saatchi account). Gone also is the "big aggressive white desk with sharp, confrontational corners" left over from her last incarnation at Charlotte Street as Saatchi's joint chairman. "It was ridiculously huge and hard-cornered, very combative," she reflects. "Clearly I felt the need, in the Eighties, to sit behind a big, white, frightening desk — which I don't feel now."

Her current model, in two tones of wood, is warmer, and there is a matching low circular table to encourage casual conversation. "It's a change of climate — meeting room rather than office," she has also concealed the formidable wall of screens and high technology — necessary for showing films to clients — left by the previous inhabitant, David Kersnow, with plain white paneling which can be opened up only when needed.

Settled in the discreet, aubergine-coloured, leather armchairs in a simple navy blue suit, red silk blouse and the antique watchfob chain she habitually wears around her neck, she describes her working week. The first week in October, when she was in Geneva for Telecoms '95, and in Orlando for a Campbell's conference at Disney World (another account), wasn't typical. Most of her days are spent



Jennifer Laing has turned high-tech in a rethink of her personal communications strategy and uses a laptop made by one of her company's clients

in the Charlotte Street offices from 8.30am until nearly 8pm, socialising with staff and clients afterwards and at weekends.

"The alarm goes at seven and I get up at quarter past. I live in Camden, very close to the office, which is frankly fundamental to the way I can run my life. So is my diary, and my PA who keeps it — Janette Hale, who's been with me for 15 years." (They even laugh alike.) The diary is a small, soft leatherbound affair, but it is adhered to rigidly. "I have a very strict appointment method because I'm trying to meet a huge number of clients and the 300 staff here."

She only manages to see her personal partner, Tony Dalton, she says, because, as he is Saatchi's deputy chairman, they are sometimes mutually involved in meetings or entertaining clients. "We'd hardly ever meet if we didn't work together," she says.

The first meeting of her day is always at 8.30am — after liaising with Janette. "Typically, it would be with Tamara

Ingram and Adam Crozier, the agency's chief executives.

"I'll quite often have a breakfast with them where we'll discuss key staffing issues, budget targets and client developments: how's the money going and how's the people. That's what it's all about."

Mornings will be spent visiting clients, or in internal briefing sessions from agency teams, so that if she bumped into any client at the opera or the races (her two favourite off-duty activities) she would be on top of what was happening with at least the major strategic issues of their account.

"Then there's the inevitable lunch with client, staff or new business prospects. Yesterday, Tony and I had lunch with a potential client, but, on average, from meeting someone to gaining a project from them takes two years. I did my own

analysis on that last time I was here, and I suspect it's got longer. Picking up the Comet account in ten days was extraordinarily unusual, a rare window of opportunity for us both."

Lunch, she observes, has changed hugely since she was joint chairman of S&S in the 1980s. "It is shorter, with less alcohol — I just usually have a glass of wine or champagne — Lanson is a client — but, if the client isn't drinking, I'll probably just have mineral water. I haven't seen anyone who drinks spirits any more at lunch. It's mostly fish and salads and choosing from the set menu of the day — and never pudding. You meet at the table at 1pm and at 2.30pm a taxi turns up. You have to have an agenda, and make sure you get through it."

The afternoon is taken up by more meetings, "and I try to spend time in the creative department which is ultimately the most important in the agency. It would become dangerous to be totally removed from it." (Saatchi has a creative

team of 100, with three creative directors, compared with Laing Henry's eight.)

At least four evenings a week are taken up with industry events and socialising with staff or clients. "I'm a Fellow of the Marketing Society so I might go to a dinner, or to a client event or a charity they're sponsoring. Tony and I try to have one night out together just for fun — to go to the opera, perhaps, which is our passion. We went to Tosca last week, but took a member of staff and his wife."

Laing no longer owns the hind leg of a racehorse — Western Legend is retired — but still regularly goes to the races at weekends. "Tony has a brood mare, Billy Blue, and breeds a foal every year."

"So much of our socialising is work-related, but we enjoy it. It's hard to be a success in this industry unless you're prepared to invest your leisure time as well. But advertising is a hobby, communications an exciting field to be in, and to me it's a joy. I can't say it's in any way stressful. It's a true pleasure."

ASSETS

A move to new offices that was the answer to Polhill's prayers

Colin Narbrough investigates the PR firm's headquarters that started life as a chapel before becoming a synagogue

City public relations executives no doubt find themselves praying often for attractive new clients with bottomless purses. Only rarely, however, can they enjoy the privilege of being able to do it in a former synagogue.

Polhill Communications, which until 18 months ago inhabited rather Dickensian premises adjacent to the Cheshire Cheese public house on Fleet Street, is a financial public relations company that has found its prayer house.

What is more, Julian Polhill, the managing director, says that business has flourished remarkably since the firm moved to its current offices in the narrow Artillery Lane in Spitalfields, on the eastern margins of the City of London. "Heart of the City with a low-cost base" is his description of the area.

Even though some City folk may turn up their noses at Spitalfields, a low-rise, and in parts poky, district that lies immediately east of the glistening Broadgate complex on Liverpool Street, the area has for centuries been home to immense cultural and commercial diversity.

It was here that successive waves of immigrants struggled in their new country to make a living before eventually becoming successful and wealthy enough to move on to posher parts.

Huguenot refugees from France wove silk here. Jews fleeing oppression in Eastern Europe set up shop in the last century, only to be supplanted

in recent decades by immigrants from Bangladesh. As the population changed, many buildings, particularly the sacred, were adapted to suit the newcomers.

From the street, Polhill's refurbished premises give away little of what awaits the visitor.

Once inside, the eye is immediately caught by the curving walls of the foyer and the stone staircase that

takes you up to the first floor with its generous, irregular-shaped open space beneath an impressive domed roof with a skylight cap.

Mr Polhill finds this space, which was where the main formal ceremonies of the Jewish worshippers took place, extremely conducive to good communication between his PR team. It could be the spirit of the place.

The former synagogue, which looks much like the

lane's other modest brick buildings from the outside, has not been used for religious purposes since 1948, when the freehold was sold off and the building converted to, of all things, a warehouse for the fruit trade.

The building between 48 and 50 Artillery Lane appears to have been built originally as a chapel, but its exact history remains unclear. The area was once a popular meeting place for Noncon-

formists. Which of these Christian groups used the chapel is a detail now lost.

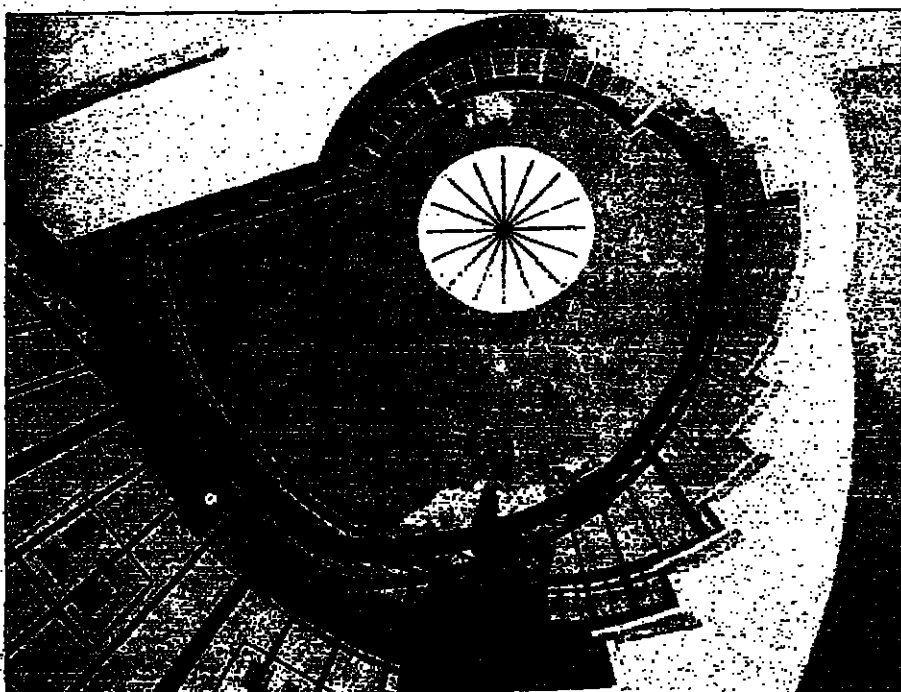
It is known that the French Charity House had premises on the lane at the end of the 17th century. The local historians have, however, deemed it improbable that the synagogue was once used by Christians of French origin.

Records from the early 18th century speak of a Baptist congregation, led by one Nathaniel Hodges, holding meetings in the lane. Although they appear to have moved premises a number of times, the Baptists maintained links with the lane until the end of last century.

The experts' best guess is that a Baptist chapel, which became Artillery Lane Synagogue in 1896, was probably built in the middle of the 18th century. The proportions of the existing building would justify this view.

Other Christian congregations occupied the chapel from time to time, but it was a Baptist meeting house in the years immediately before being leased to the Jewish congregation. It was in active use as a synagogue until 1948 when its religious history came to an end.

Mr Polhill says the religious past of his offices has impressed his orthodox Jewish clients. For him, a gentle, moving to Artillery Lane has been something of a coming home, as he worked as a young man for a fruit company from Spitalfields market.



Julian Polhill finds this space conducive to good communication between his PR team

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds bank, was in Washington for the IMF conference when his chairman called with the news that The Sunday Times was running a story that Lloyds was lining up a takeover bid. "It sounds to me," said Pitman, "that unless we make an announcement tomorrow morning we will have a disorderly market." He immediately began arranging to fly back to London..."

Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow



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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

GrandMet's price soars on talk of Guinness bid

SHARES of Grand Metropolitan came within a whisker of its year's high amid mounting speculation within the Square Mile that Guinness, its rival, may be close to launching a £13 billion bid.

GrandMet, which includes famous names such as J&B Scotch, Burger King, Jolly Green Giant and Pillsbury, touched 457p before ending the session 13p higher at 454p, as 14 million shares changed hands in frantic trading.

Talk in the marketplace claims Guinness is teaming up with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the US corporate raider that financed a \$20 billion break-up bid for Nabisco several years ago, to launch an offer of £6 a share. Brokers were talking about terms of one Guinness share, plus 100p in cash. Guinness closed 6p better at 515p last night, valuing the offer at 615p a share.

It is argued that Guinness and KKR would divide GrandMet between them. Guinness would take International Distillers and Vintners, while KKR would settle for the food operations.

In the past month, GrandMet's share price has risen from about 420p, with the City dismissing claims that the company is merely being re-rated. It will be forced to undergo a boardroom reshuffle at some stage, with Lord Sheppard of Digdromer having made it clear that he intends to step down as chief executive within the next year. Speculators say this will only undermine GrandMet's ability to fight off an unwanted bid.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market ended the week on a high note. The FT-SE 100 index extended Thursday's rise of nearly 50 points with a gain of 44.2 at 3,568.0, just 2.8 below its closing record of 3,570.8. It was helped by a favourable set of retail sales figures in the US. After Tuesday's 50-point fall, the week's rise has been restricted to 41.5.

In spite of this latest surge of enthusiasm, trading conditions remained thin, with total turnover restricted to 657 million shares. Institutional investors are reluctant to sell a market that continues to be underpinned by high levels of takeover activity.

This was highlighted by the banking sector, which continued to bubble away amid further bid talk, as brokers in the Square Mile faced up to the possibility of further con-



Martin Long and John Steinbrecher of Rhino saw the price slip

solidation within the industry. Schroders, probably the last independent merchant bank of any size, was again put under the spotlight. The shares shot up a full £1 first thing on revived talk of a bid before closing 88p higher at £13.68, valuing the company at £2.3 billion.

The company itself is no stranger to bid activity. It has been busy this year represent-

ing clients either being bid for, or making bids for others. After the demise this year of such rival banks as Warburg, Barings and Kleinwort Benson, Schroders has been linked with ABN Amro, the Dutch bank. By the close of business, almost 2,000 shares had traded in a market where dealers will usually only quote a price in 3,000 shares at a time.

The rest of the banking group ended the week on a high note with speculative buying continuing to drive prices higher. Royal Bank of Scotland added a further 20p to 522p with the City still talking about either a merger with Bank of Scotland, up 4p at 261p, or a full scale bid from Abbey National, 2p firmer at 572p.

Lloyds Bank edged ahead a further 6p to 774p, while TSB

ing 20p to 518p. Elsewhere in the sector gains were seen in HSBC, 39p to 945p, National Westminster, 18p to 639p, and Irish Permanent, 10p to 335p.

Also on the takeover front, Norweb slipped 4p to £11.35 as North West Water appeared poised to win control. It has mopped up more shares in the marketplace, stretching its holding in the company to 46.06 million, or 29.5 per cent of the issued share capital. On Thursday, Norweb finally recommended the offer to shareholders after North West raised its offer to £11.70 a share after twice outbidding the Texas Partners consortium.

North West finished all-square at 579p. Conrad Black has continued adding to his controlling holding in The Telegraph, up 1p at 437p. Hollinger, his private investment vehicle, has exercised an option to acquire seven million shares at a price of 450p from the company's trustees. It lifts Hollinger's stake to 63.3 per cent.

Rhino, the video games retailer, is raising £9 million by way of a five-for-six rights issue at 8p a share. The issue is being underwritten by its biggest shareholder, the Electronic Boutique, which already owns 25 per cent of the shares. EBI could end up with more than 30 per cent but will not be required to make a full bid. Last year Rhino made losses of almost £7 million. Rhino shares finished 1½p down at 11p.

GILT-EDGED: The London market responded positively to firm performances by US treasury bonds and European bond markets. Prices rallied sharply at the outset encouraged by the latest distributive trades survey from the CBI.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt climbed £21 1/2 to end at £102 3/4, as 51,000 contracts were completed. In the cash market, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 jumped £1 1/4 to 97 1/2, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was wanted £7 1/2 better at £101 1/2. Index-linked benefited from the revived fortunes in the equity market closing with gains of £3.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street extended their gains in morning trading, buoyed by a rally in the bond market. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was up 32.51 points at 4,797.39.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4797.39 (+32.51)
S&P Composite 586.25 (+3.15)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 17880.63 (+90.57)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9883.78 (+198.64)

Amsterdam:
AEX 461.40 (+1.52)

Sydney:
ASX 2099.00 (+20.48)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2196.83 (+38.71)

Singapore:
Straits 2129.04 (+6.98)

Brussels:
General 7752.96 (+31.23)

Paris:
CAC 40 1817.03 (+13.28)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 699.40 (+4.10)

London:
FT 100 3568.00 (+44.2)
FT-SE Mid 250 3945.3 (+8.9)
FT-SE-A 350 1764.0 (+16.0)
FTSE Europe 100 1421.06 (+16.48)
FT A-All Share 1754.15 (+16.73)
FT Non Financials 1863.15 (+14.23)
FT FTSE Interest 111.01 (+0.38)
FT Govt Sec 92.90 (+0.39)

Bargains:
SEAQ Volume 682,896
US\$ (Dressum) 181.00 (+0.88)
US\$ 1.5734 (+0.00119)
German Mark 2.2473 (+0.0119)
Exchange Index 945.0 (+3.3)
Bank of England official cash rate 4.00%

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TEMPUS

War in the Channel

THE cross-Channel war being fought out between the ferry companies and the Channel Tunnel threw up an intriguing forecast this week.

P&O European Ferries and the other ferry groups were accused a week ago by Eurotunnel of waging an "insane price war". P&O responded yesterday with a prediction that traffic through the tunnel will peak sooner than expected, allowing the tunnel and the rival ferries to end the price war and raise fares late next year. While 1996 will not look good, 1997 should see an orderly market.

Graham Dunlop, chairman of P&O European Ferries, said: "We feel the freight market will stabilise in spring next year and the passenger market in the autumn and by that time Eurotunnel will have been absorbed into the market." Given that P&O is the largest

cross-Channel ferry operator it can probably do more than anyone else to determine Eurotunnel's fortunes.

For long-suffering Eurotunnel shareholders, however, it is unlikely to mean much. They hold equity in a company that will not pay any interest on debts of £8 billion for 18 months and were once described by their chairman as a very thin cushion between a heavy man and a hard seat. The shares slipped 1p to 95p yesterday, close to their all-time low of 90p and a far cry from the 80p high reached in the far off heady days of 1989.

The stark truth for Eurotunnel shareholders is that they are the victims of an early experiment in getting private capital into public ownership. This is a highly laudable aim but should have been tried out on a smaller and more certain project first.

Colorvision

COLORVISION has possibly only 21 days in which to convince the Office of Fair Trading effectively not to pull the plug on its business.

With the threat of its consumer-credit licence being revoked, the television, video and satellite retailer is hurriedly preparing a defence to counter 43 customer complaints, about misleading advertising, bounced up to the Office of Fair Trading, by a number of regional trading standards officers.

The OFT's notice, which says that the director-general is minded to revoke the licence, means the retail chain has to convince an adjudicator that it is fit to hold such a licence after the complaints and trading standards prosecutions that have gone ahead in magistrates' courts.

Annual reports

AFTER occupying headlines for much of the past year, the Greenbury Committee's recommendations on directors' pay will soon come to have meaning for shareholders, large and small alike.

The London Stock Exchange has finally published the amendments to its rules although they will not take effect until December 31. Instead of the end of this month as originally envisaged.

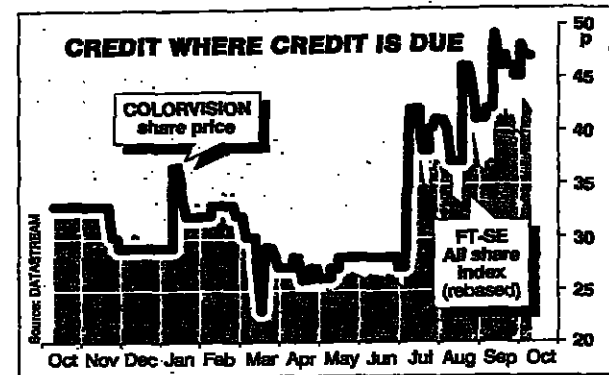
Shareholders should look out in annual reports not only for information on directors' remuneration but for a statement of compliance with best practice on remuneration committees. There should also be a statement that full consideration has been given to best-practice provisions on remuneration policy, service contracts and compensation.

Sadly, however, the Exchange has decided that further consultation is needed on three Greenbury recom-

Colorvision's consumer credit licence

was renewed two years ago. At that time concerns were raised by 30 consumer complaints largely relating to the company's advertising of its credit facilities. The retailer pledged to take action but has now been bowled by further 13 complaints from customers.

Colorvision has spent a good deal of effort turning its operation around and has recently started to inspire confidence among City analysts who had previously advised clients to sell the shares. The company, it seems, could trade without a credit licence but only with great difficulty in a highly competitive market.



Annual reports

are sufficiently clear before they go into the list of rules some time in the first quarter of 1996.

These three recommendations have never been far from the front pages either and cover long-term incentive schemes, options and pensions.

Rhino

LIFE has not been easy for Rhino Group, Britain's largest independent retailer of video games, as its beleaguered share price clearly demonstrates.

Like those struggling to save its real-life namesake, Rhino's second rescue rights issue in less than ten months should help protect it from possible extinction, though it still remains on the endangered species list.

The video games market has gone through a tough time as consumers put off purchases in competitive conditions and have instead

waited for the latest 32-bit machines from Sony and Sega to be introduced. Sony's PlayStation and Sega's Saturn have recently arrived and enjoyed a successful launch. Nintendo is due to launch its Ultra 64 next spring.

In the meantime, trading is still competitive and Rhino's profits are under threat.

Rhino's stock problems have cost it dear but should now be behind it, while the help of Electronic Boutique should improve the group's buying power. Rhino's 112 stores should also benefit from the injection of more credible and experienced management expertise and the development of some innovative policies such as the introduction of higher-margin part-exchange sales.

The company has stemmed losses and ought now to be over the worst, though real profits are not likely to flow through until the next financial year.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
COCA			
Dec	97.94	Mar	101.10
Jan	97.94	Jun	101.10
Feb	97.94	Sep	101.10
Mar	97.94	Dec	101.10
Apr	97.94	Mar	101.10
May	97.94	Apr	101.10
Jun	97.94	May	101.10
Jul	97.94	Jun	101.10
Aug	97.94	Jul	101.10
Sep	97.94	Aug	101.10
Oct	97.94	Sep	101.10
Nov	97.94	Oct	101.10
Dec	97.94	Nov	101.10
Jan	97.94	Dec	101.10
Feb	97.94	Jan	101.10
Mar	97.94	Feb	101.10
Apr	97.94	Mar	101.10
May	97.94	Apr	101.10
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May	97.94	Apr	101.10
Jun	97.94	May	101.10
Jul	97.94	Jun	101.10
Aug	97.94	Jul	101.10



TAXING YEAR 32-33

Help to weather
a cold season
of tax demands

WEEKEND
MONEY

WILL DO? 36

The risk of
not leaving
a valid will



The Lloyds/TSB merger is likely to trigger similar moves in the months ahead



Banking 1995: today's array of household names could be much shortened as banks and building societies succumb to the merger mania now spreading down the high street

High street is the
new takeover arena

The announcement of the Lloyds/TSB engagement is expected to precipitate more mergers and takeovers in the banking and building society industries. Some speculate that the high street will once again be ruled by five or six banking titans, a regime not seen since the Sixties.

At present, there are about 10 major players, including several substantial building societies which fulfil the role of banks. Setting the largest of the banks on the takeover trail will be their need to make use of their fast-accumulating capital. Demand for loans is slow, meaning that the banks have funds to spare. At the same time, they see takeovers as a way to cut their costs, which are rising as income from lending declines.

The US banks are leading the way.

More familiar names may be in line for
new ownership, says Anne Ashworth

In August, Chase Manhattan and Chemical declared that they were joining forces in a \$10 billion merger to form the largest bank in the US.

Simon Samuels, banks analyst at the securities house Smith New Court, the team which forecast that the TSB was susceptible to a bid, now sees the Royal Bank of Scotland as the next target. Abbey National, the building society turned bank, and Bank of Scotland might also hold attractions for a larger competitor.

Part of the appeal of the RBS lies in two subsidiaries: the highly successful telephone-based insurer, Direct Line,

and Citizens Financial, the New England banking chain. RBS shares closed at 522p yesterday. Their previous high for the year was 502p.

In a replay, HSBC, the international banking group which owns the Midland, could again be drawn to the RBS. HSBC made an unsuccessful bid for the bank in 1981. After the Lloyds TSB merger, the Midland will be left some distance behind, giving its parent an excuse for expansion.

The news of TSB's fate will have caused some dismay among those building societies contemplating conversion. A society which abandons its

mutual status for a stock market quotation is protected from predators for five years. Societies such as the Nationwide and the Alliance & Leicester might have believed they were big enough to stay independent beyond the five-year deadline. But the swallowing-up of the TSB means that they could be easily digested.

However, to the relief of those who have opened accounts at the Nationwide, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Bristol & West hoping for a conversion windfall, Mr Samuels believes the societies will not be deterred for long. The benefits of banking status are likely to outweigh their fears of takeover. The Halifax, joining the market in early 1997, may rest easy. Valued at £8-10 billion, it should be too big a mouthful for even the greediest banker.

Millions of savers with TSB could be worse off if its planned merger with Lloyds goes through. At the moment, TSB gives its customers interest rates which are in some cases 20 per cent better than those offered by Lloyds.

Lloyds is refusing to guarantee it will maintain the preferential rates for TSB savers when the merger goes through.

The merger will give it a combined customer base of more than 14 million.

The merger will need an Act of Parliament which could take up to two years to come to fruition.

Lloyds and TSB claim that it is far too early to say what impact the merger will have on its existing client base. After the honeymoon period, when the effect of the special 65p dividend for TSB shareholders, many of whom are customers, has worn off, millions of savers with the bank that said yes may be far worse off.

Sir Brian Pitman, Lloyds chief executive, is keen to

Merger
may hit
TSB
savers

stress that the two banks will be run separately for the time being, and each will maintain its separate culture and brand.

Branches: Lloyds Bank has 1,800 branches concentrated mainly in the South, while TSB is predominantly a northern bank, with 1,080 branches.

Savers: millions of savers with the TSB at the moment benefit from interest rates which are in some cases more than 20 per cent better than equivalent rates offered at Lloyds.

Borrowers: anyone who wants to take out a mortgage

with the TSB after the merger will be offered a loan from what was formerly the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, which is now owned by Lloyds Bank.

C&G: the division already offers its mortgages through Lloyds. It is offering a discount of 0.25 per cent on its variable rate.

Life insurance: both banks have extensive life insurance operations. Lloyds Abbey Life — 63 per cent owned by the bank — sells life insurance and pensions policies through its subsidiary Black Horse Life. TSB Life does the same with TSB. The scope for rationalisation may be limited because Lloyds does not wholly own Lloyds Abbey Life.

Investment: both banks have companies which offer unit trusts and personal equity plans. There is scope for rationalisation because their ranges are virtually identical.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Double take on unit trusts

Both TSB Group and Lloyds Bank offer their customers a wide choice of unit trusts. The range of each has an almost identical mix of funds in terms both of investment strategy and the geographical area where money is invested (Caroline Merrell writes).

Merging the interests of the two banks could lead to some cost-savings through rationalisation of back-office administration and the merging of fund management.

Overall, the performance of the funds from each bank is similar, in places startlingly so, although TSB has one or two star performers.

TSB's unit trust range has 20 funds, while Lloyds offers its customers a choice of 19. According to figures from Micropal, the performance

statistics specialist, £100 invested in a TSB fund five years ago would now be worth on average £184. The same amount invested in a Lloyds trust would now be worth £183. Among the better performers in TSB's range is the American Fund, top in its sector over one year, fifth over three years, and second over five years.

One hundred pounds invested in this trust three years ago would now be worth £156. The same amount invested five years ago would now be worth £227.

TSB's Selected Opportunities fund, which invests for growth, also has a strong track record.

It is fourth in its sector over one and three years. One hundred pounds invested in this fund three years ago, would now be worth £157.

Lloyds also has a strong-performing US fund in the Lloyds North American Smaller Companies and Recovery Trust. This is the best performing fund in its sector over one year, fourth over three years and leader over five years.

One hundred pounds invested three years ago would now be worth £161.

Another good performer from Lloyds is its UK Smaller Companies and Recovery Fund, which is second over three years and five years. One hundred pounds invested five years ago would now be worth £208.

The interest on TSB's instant access deposit account is higher than that at Lloyds — 3.95 per cent compared with 3.6 per cent. TSB's 60-day account pays 4.25 per cent,

while Lloyds's 30-day account pays 4.05 per cent. Interest-paying cheque accounts at TSB and Lloyds pay 1 per cent and between 0.5 and 2 per cent respectively.

Authorised and unauthorised overdraft rates are also higher at the TSB at 18.8 per cent and 29.8 per cent respectively, compared with between 11.8 and 19.4 per cent and 26.8 per cent at Lloyds.

TSB credit cards pay 17.9 per cent, compared with 22 per cent at Lloyds. Again, all interest rates are based on a monthly sum of £5,000.

Weekend Money
is edited by
Anne Ashworth

Time to buy, or just a swing?

A funny thing happened last Tuesday, unless you were Dean Witter, the brokers who flew in a team of analysts from New York that day. Their aim: to tell a London audience about a US economic miracle, which they believe has come to stay.

An interesting message, on any other day. But by the time the meeting adjourned for lunch, the Dow had fallen more than 60 points, setting off something of a panic in London, and the message was lost on the audience.

Then, luck, because the New York fall was virtually reversed by bedtime, and London ended the week up.

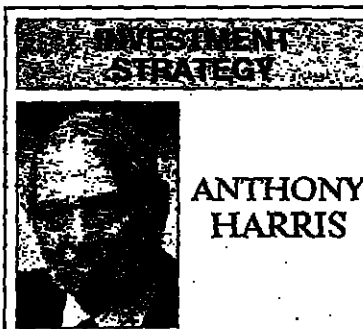
Both markets are increasingly driven by Japanese money, rather than news. To a chartist, that means simply that although the market may look too high — and in New York technology stocks certainly are too high — they may well go quite a lot higher before they melt down.

Hence the familiar pattern of a rising trend interrupted by panic attacks. If you are out of the market, of course, it looks different: you are hoping for the big break as a buying opportunity.

How big a break and how big an opportunity? That is where Dean Witter's fundamentalist approach comes in.

It is based not on market sentiment, but on some rather striking economic facts, which can be summed up in one phrase: this recovery is quite different from the past few, thanks to de-managing and technical progress.

In the 1975-79 and 1981-86 cycles, the argument goes, real profits per employ-



ANTHONY
HARRIS

ee rose about 20 per cent, though there was a higher peak the second time round. Since 1991, they have risen by more than 120 per cent, and are still on a strongly rising trend. Margins on sales have nearly doubled, to some 9.5 per cent.

The same trends have been seen in other countries, though they have not been as dramatic. The result has been a total change in competitiveness.

In motors, hardly at the cutting edge, pre-tax margins at 7 per cent are back to near their earlier peak in the mid-1980s; in Japan, in the same decade, margins are down more than 80 per cent.

The Nineties have been kind to profits everywhere, but returns on equity have risen about 25 per cent further in the US than in Europe, and nearly 50 per cent faster than in Germany.

Since the US has also had a longer and stronger recovery than the rest of the developed world, you may think that there is some truth in the old adage that

nothing succeeds like success. The main cause, however, is not just growth, but a huge surge in investment in plant.

The capital-to-labour ratio, as estimated by Dean Witter, has risen nearly 40 per cent in three years, led by information technology, where investment has doubled. Since a high return on investment encourages more investment, you might be forgiven for thinking that the gap can only widen.

Finding markets for rising output does not look much of a problem: US exports are now growing nearly 40 per cent faster than world GDP — the sort of figures and ratios that Japan used to produce. It looks like the swing of a pendulum.

However, one big switch was missing from the Dean Witter chartbook. From late 1984 until a few weeks ago, the real exchange rate of the dollar fell almost without a break. Now it is rising again. Is this the underlying cause of the renaissance, and if so, is that recovery itself likely to fizzle out?

I would answer a decisive "yes" to the first question, but a more tentative "no" to the second. A weak dollar certainly did wonders for relative costs and profits. But with the investment momentum that has now been established, competitiveness may survive a strong dollar, just as earlier it survived a strong yen and mark.

If it is now America's turn for a miracle, the market break will be the buy signal of a lifetime. If this is just the swing of the pendulum, not so hot.

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T 14.10.95

The approach of fireworks night highlights dangers, writes Helen Pridham

Parents seek cover to protect children

The firework season is upon us again and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents is urging schools to highlight the dangers of firework misuse. The number of firework-related injuries last year was the highest for 20 years and more than half those injured were under 15 years old. Many of them have been left with permanent eye or burn injuries.

Fireworks, though, are only one of many sources of danger for children. Accidents involving children happen all the time. Although children under 16 make up only 20 per cent of the population, they account for 40 per cent of the leisure-related injuries treated in hospital. These include injuries incurred at home and during sports activities, with boys who play rugby particularly at risk. The number of children hurt in road accidents has fallen in recent years, but still accounts for 14 per cent of the total. Yet, of the 11.5 million children in Britain under 16, it is thought that less than 10 per cent have comprehensive insurance cover for accidents.

In an effort to persuade more parents to take out cover for their children, Willis Corroon, the insurance broker, has launched Child Guard, a personal accident policy which pays out lump sums in the event of permanent injury. The payouts vary according to the severity of the disability suffered, ranging from £500 as a result of minor facial disfigurement to £200,000 in the case of total disablement.

Steve Wood of Willis First Response, who developed the

plan, says: "All parents would naturally prefer an injured child to get better rather than to have to claim on this type of policy. But if the worst comes to the worst, a cash payment can help to pay for such things as modifications to the home or for extra equipment, such as a computer, to make a disabled child's life easier and more comfortable."

Apart from the lump sum payments, Child Guard provides a number of other benefits including daily payments of £25 if your child is in hospital for more than three days, and tutorial benefits if a child is unable to attend school for more than 30 days after spending more than 14 days in hospital.

It also gives access to a 24-hour family helpline for medical and other advice. Legal expenses cover and a legal advice line is also included. Another useful extra for working parents whose children suddenly fall sick or are injured is a telephone service which can arrange a temporary carer at short notice to look after children for up to 24 hours a day until other care can be arranged. This is paid for by the policy.

The cost of Child Guard depends on how many children you have and what level of cover you select. A choice of one or two units of cover is provided with maximums of £100,000 and £200,000 respectively for total disablement.

With all its additional benefits, Child Guard is the most comprehensive children's personal accident policy currently on the market. Other policies for children concentrate more on the provision of lump sum



The number of firework-related injuries last year was the highest for 20 years and more than half those injured were under 15, yet few of them were covered by insurance.

payments in the event of permanent injury. They are available from Holmwoods, Cigna and Norwich Union. Norwich Union also underwrites the insurance for Child Guard.

Holmwoods is the largest provider of personal accident insurance for children at present. It is a firm of brokers which specialises in schools insurance. It offers group policies through schools as well as individual family cover and currently covers a total of about 750,000 children. Its individual Class Cover policy, which is endorsed by the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, provides many of the same

lump benefits as Willis Corroon Child Guard at a lower cost.

For example, under Child Guard's basic policy, a child who lost the sight of one or both eyes would receive £75,000. Under the equivalent Holmwoods policy, a child who lost the sight of both eyes would qualify for the maximum payout of £100,000. If there was a loss of sight in just one eye, though, Holmwoods pays £50,000. Other differences include £10,000 for the loss of a big toe from Holmwoods, and £3,000 from Child Guard. However, in some cases, Child Guard payouts are higher and it does

THE COST OF INSURANCE								
Policy name	Holmwoods Class Cover		Willis Corroon Child Guard		Cigna Firstcover		Norwich Union Teddybear	
No of children:	1	2+	1	2+	1	2+	1	2+
*£100,000	£19	£38	£38	£54-£102	£33	£60	£25	£50+
*£200,000	£28	£56	£54	£85-£179	£51	£96	—	—

*Maximum benefit (cost per annum)

*Maximum benefit (cost per annum)

cover dental injury — £50 for the loss of each permanent tooth — while Holmwoods excludes dental injury. Holmwoods does not offer extra helplines or other add-ons such as tutorial benefits either, although there is a daily benefit of £30 if a child is in hospital or confined at

home after hospital treatment. For larger families on a tight budget, Holmwoods policy will be considerably cheaper because everyone with two or more children pays the same premium whereas Child Guard charges extra for each child. Legal expenses and legal advice cover are also available

from Holmwoods as an optional extra for £9.25. None of the policies pays out more than £5,000 on the accidental death of a child because parents are not legally entitled to benefit from the death of their child under an insurance policy. The money paid is intended to cover funeral expenses.

Cover for adults

Adults can also take out personal accident policies which pay out a lump sum if an accident results in serious and permanent injuries. These policies are often offered by banks and building societies. The premiums are modest. Alliance & Leicester, for example, has recently been offering a policy which pays out up to £100,000 for premiums starting at £3.95 a month. However, it is difficult to discover how much is paid out under these policies. The Association of British Insurers does not collect statistics on personal accident policies.

Beating the low-interest blues

Jill Insley on shopping around for the most lucrative home for your savings

Low interest rates might be good news for borrowers who have hefty mortgages to pay off, but they are bad news for investors who are trying to make the most of their savings. The 0.5 per cent interest rate cut by many banks and building societies last month has made it even more important that savers shop around for the most lucrative home for their money.

The Norwich and Peterborough and Northern Rock building societies were first to reduce their rates. Most other deposit-takers have followed this move, with cuts averaging about 0.5 per cent. The Halifax Building Society, for example, has cut the gross interest paid on £10,000 deposits in its Bonus Gold 60 Day account from 6.5 per cent to 5.85 per cent. Abbey National is now paying 5.79 per cent on £10,000 deposits in its high-yield one-year bond account, compared with 6.65 per cent last month.

Interest paid on instant access and cheque accounts has also fallen. Martin Mullany, director of Brooks Macdonald Gayer, the London financial adviser, suggests postal accounts as a convenient, high-interest alternative for those investors who can afford to wait a few days for their money.

Postal account holders are given a supply of withdrawal slips and pre-paid

envelopes on opening the account. Whenever they want to take money out, they fill in their slip, send it off, and a cheque from the building society should arrive by return of post.

He adds: "If I was going to change accounts, I would move to a society which has not yet merged or converted to a public limited company. That way I might benefit from a bonus payout as well." Some societies have set a date, usually several months before the official announcement of their plans, by which an account must be opened to qualify for a bonus. But the Halifax allowed accounts to qualify that had opened on the day before it announced plans to convert to a plc.

National Savings provide a secure and attractive alternative to banks and building societies. Amanda Davidson, partner with Holden Meehan, recommends the eighth issue of index-linked certificates which pay 3 per cent above the rate of inflation provided the investor does not withdraw any money within five years. Miss Davidson says: "That might not seem particularly

attractive because inflation is so low, but the interest is tax-free, and they are as solid as a rock because they are government-backed. What more could you ask for?" Guides to the full range of

National Savings products are available in all post offices, or can be obtained by calling 0500 500 000 or 0645 645 000. Investors who open tax-exempt special savings accounts, or Tessas, when rates of 14 per cent or 15 per cent were paid, may now be earning less than half the original interest. But Tessa started when the scheme was first introduced in January 1991 will begin to mature early next year, and it is probably not worth incurring transfer penalties in the last

few months to earn a fraction more interest.

Banks and building societies are expected to flood the market with tempting new schemes in the next few months, so investors will be better off waiting to select the pick of the new crop.

Best Buys

■ National Savings rates are hard to beat at the moment. The second series, Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bond, designed for people 65 or over, pays interest fixed at 7.5 per cent gross a year for five years on sums from £500 to £20,000.

The bonds pay 6.5 per cent gross on investments from £2,000 to £25,000. In-

vestors must give three months' notice of withdrawal and only half the interest is paid on amounts withdrawn in the first year. Interest on both types of bond is paid gross but must be declared to the Inland Revenue. Children's bonds, for those aged 16 or less, pay a fixed rate of 5 per cent per annum plus a bonus of 18.28 per cent on the fifth anniversary — all tax-free.

■ Cheltenham & Gloucester has revamped its postal account to offer preferential rates of interest to investors who deposit larger sums of money. The London Account now pays 5.5 per cent gross on deposits of £2,500 to £9,999, 5.7 per cent for sums from £10,000 to £24,999, 5.85 per cent gross for sums from £25,000 to £99,999, and 6 per cent gross for deposits of £100,000 or more. The account previously paid a flat rate of 5.95 per cent gross to all investors. Call 0800 717 505.

■ The Co-operative Bank's pathfinder Instant Access account pays 6 per cent gross interest for deposits of £5,000 or

more, or regular transfers of £100 a month. Call 0345 252 000.

■ Britannia Building Society's 90-Day Notice Index-Link account is paying 6.1 per cent gross on deposits of £1,000 or more. Call 0800 269 655.

■ Bradford and Bingley Building Society's 60-Day Notice Direct 60 account pays 6.7 per cent gross on deposits from £5,000 to £14,999, and 7.15 per cent gross on amounts from £15,000 to 29,999. Call 0345 248 248.

■ Moneyfacts lists details of a wide range of investment and mortgage products. For a free copy call 01692 500 677.

■ Nationwide has launched Bonus Saver, a more flexible regular savers account, that allows customers to vary their monthly payment and miss a payment once a year, should their financial circumstances change. Bonus Saver pays 6 per cent gross to customers who save any amount between £20 and £1,000 a month. After a year, a monthly saving of £20 will be £248, £50 will be £619, £100 will be £1,239, £250 will be £3,097, and £1,000 will be £12,390. The account also offers bonus holidays and a car. Call 01793 513513.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

today's offer

WIN A
MILLION
every month

Or your money back

£1 Million monthly jackpot

Premium Bonds. Any person aged 16 or over can buy Premium Bonds for themselves. Bonds can be bought for children under 16 by their parents, (great) grandparents or guardians.

If you buy by post, we will send you a copy of the prospectus containing the full terms, to which this advertisement is a simplified guide. The purchase date will be the date we receive your application. If you then wish to cancel your purchase, tell us in writing within 28 days and we will refund your money. But please note that you are not entitled to any prizes drawn on the cancelled purchase.

Bonds go into the prize draw one full calendar month after the month of purchase. Three months notice of any changes to the prize structure or interest rate that makes up the prize fund will be given.

The Director of Savings reserves the right to seek evidence of identity.

For a free copy of the full terms and conditions of today's offer, or for a free copy of our Virtual Shop Guide covering all National Savings' unique investment opportunities, you can call us free anytime on 0500 500 000

Over 350,000 other prizes of £50 or more every month worth over £22 Million

Key Plus

All prizes tax-free

Points

You can invest £100 to £20,000

Money back at any time

Please send this form to: National Savings, PREMIUM BONDS, Freepost to 2020, Blackpool, FY3 90X.

If you prefer, use a first class stamp for rapid delivery.

1 Do you already hold Premium Bonds? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please enter your Holder's Number

2 Amount in words pounds £

3 M Surname

All forenames

Address in full

Postcode

Date of Birth

4 I accept the purchase will be subject to the terms of the current Prospectus.

Signature

Date

5 If buying for a child under 16, give name of parent/guardian:

M Surname

All forenames

6 If buying for a (great) grandchild, give name of the parent/guardian above and your own name and address below.

M Surname

All forenames

Address

Postcode

This form cannot be used to purchase Premium Bonds at a post office.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Making money out of negative equity

Someone, somewhere, in the insurance world believes that house prices have not much further to fall.

This is the obvious conclusion to be drawn from the launch this week of a negative equity insurance policy. The cover is part of a package designed to promote a North West builder's houses. But the broker involved, the Chester-based DTE Insurance, is also talking to a regional building society with an estate agency arm.

Since one supposes that the insurers underwriting the policy see this as business from which they can make money, they must be convinced that property prices are not a bad bet.

The construction company, David McLean, feels that negative equity insurance will encourage confidence in the absence of Government measures to revive the housing market. But, if this type of cover becomes widely available, the reaction of the potential buyer will be harder to gauge.



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

To the thousands who find it impossible, despite the statistics, to shake off the belief that property inevitably appreciates, negative equity insurance would be unthinkable. Those of a realistic mindset might feel tempted. Until, that is, they saw the bill. Buyers of McLean homes will, for example, get £5,000 worth of cover free. For each extra £1,000 worth, they will pay a one-off premium of £87.50, giving a total of £1,750 for £20,000 worth of cover. Reasonable, perhaps, to protect yourself against steep declines in value, but expensive if prices remain roughly stable (the view, it would seem, of the insurers). Added to the

various insurances now associated with homebuying, it would act as something of a dampener. Figures from Chase de Vere Mortgage Management show that a 30-year-old borrowing £90,000 against a £100,000 house could expect to pay about £192 a year for mortgage protection insurance. Unemployment cover, made essential by the income support cutbacks, is another £480 a year. Since our borrower is taking a 90 per cent loan, he may also face a £1,000 one-off mort-

gage indemnity guarantee premium. All these before he makes his £682-a-month mortgage payment.

Negative equity insurance raises all sorts of questions but one thing is sure. Commissions. You may not benefit but the person selling it to you will.

It is rumoured the Inland Revenue would dearly love to tax redundancy payments. Currently the first £20,000 worth of any payment is tax-free, a concession designed to lessen the pain of job loss. The only exception to this rule are golden handshakes paid as part of a contract. Terminal bonuses made to those loyal to the very end who do extra work during the period leading up to redundancy are also taxable.

Accountants are divided as to whether Kenneth Clarke will side with the Revenue on this issue. Some point out that taxing redundancy payments would raise close to £1 billion in a year. This is equivalent to 1/10 of income tax, an attractive prospect for a Chancellor who has now promised the middle classes their Budget reward. But others argue that the cuddly Mr Clarke does not have it in him to be so vindictive. Especially when he could gather in the same amount of money from doubling insurance premium and airport passenger taxes, those little extras that we hardly notice.

Did he know?

THE Gucci family saga, where two wives and a mistress wrangle over the estate of deceased playboy Paolo Gucci, will prove to be excellent publicity for Make a Will Week. Starting on Monday, we will be exhorted to prepare our last testaments, or risk leaving a legacy of resentment to our heirs. As we explain on page 36, those who have cohabited, serially or otherwise, must, in particular, sort out their affairs, as the law only recognises and rewards the bonds of matrimony. Did Paolo know this? We await the next episode.

Moore's almanac predicts punters' premium prizes

Can you beat Ernie at the numbers

game? asks Morag Preston

A postman might well be the last person to whom you would turn for financial advice. But David Moore aims to change all that by delivering to Britain's Premium Bond holders the formula that could send their chances of success with Ernie into orbit.

"Watch your chances rocket... bring your chances down to less than 5/1," is just one of the more dramatic claims made in the publicity to launch Mr Moore's book *How to Increase Your Chances of Winning on the Premium Bonds*, and has helped to attract criticism from the Advertising Standards Authority.

Mr Moore, 44, a Salisbury postman, assures readers that by using his unique system, they will secure 650 extra chances of winning on the Premium Bonds for less than £10. "You may not win," says the author, "but it's very little to lose for all those extra chances. I'm just amazed that no one else has thought of it."

Savings (NS), said a spokeswoman. "All we have checked, is that any factual information on Premium Bonds and National Savings is correct."

However, Mr Moore is not allowed to mention National Savings in his advertisements. Anyone who replies to Mr Moore's advertisement and sends £7.95, plus post and packaging, will receive a slim 12-page booklet, of which two pages list past Premium Bond winners in huge print. Mr Moore says: "I can't tell people that they're going to win, but if you use this formula, you can increase your chances of winning by buying more bonds for a very low premium."

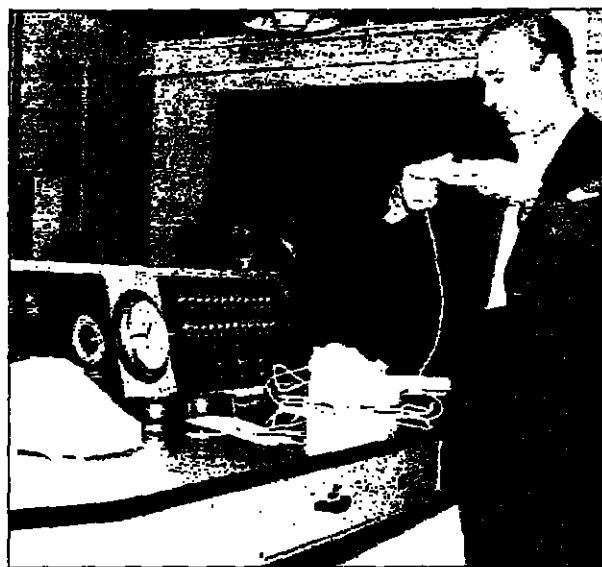
Using NS calculations that each Premium Bond has a one in 15,000 chance of winning a prize, Mr Moore has worked out that with an extra 200

bonds, holders can raise their chances to one in 75 until with an extra 3,000 bonds, the chances are up to below one in five. "You have to equate the cost of purchasing the extra bonds against the prize that you might win," he said.

But a win is far from guaranteed using Mr Moore's system — his booklet merely explains how to obtain more money to purchase more Premium Bonds. It is based on a new rule introduced by National Savings in February 1994, that customers only have to hold their bonds for one calendar month. Mr Moore's top-up system involves extra form filling, and complicated transfers of cash made with split-second timing.

cover price last August. "People say it sounds marvelous," he says, "but why aren't they buying the book?"

Mr Moore targeted his booklet at the over-50s, and placed advertisements in two publications for pensioners. He did not refer his advertisement to the Advertising Standards Authority, which said the author must be able to substantiate his claims. Graham Fowler, of the ASA, said: "It is a very definite measurable claim."



The first Premium Bond draw in 1956

Chasing the £1 million jackpot

- Since the creation of a monthly £1 million jackpot, in December 1993, sales of Premium Bonds have come to more than £3 billion — more than were sold in the previous ten years.
- In August, 171 million Premium Bonds were sold at £1 each.
- The minimum purchase of bonds is £100, and the maximum is £20,000.
- The record month for sales of Premium Bonds was February 1994, when £230.8 million were sold.
- Each Premium Bond has a 1 in 15,000 chance of winning a prize.
- Ernie will be 40 in 1997. There are two prizes of £100,000, three of £50,000 and four prizes of £25,000. There are around 185,000 prizes between £50-£1,000.

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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

FINANCIAL TIMES

PERSONAL PENSION PLANS

How pension plans work, and what to look for

The five crucial questions

Personal pensions are designed for employees without access to a company scheme and for the self-employed. You can also use a plan to opt out of the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps).

If you fall into one of these categories, you are part of the "target market" for life offices and those who sell their products, and are likely to find yourself at the end of a very persuasive sales process.

Since their introduction in July 1988, personal pension plans have been sold to more than 5m people, many of whom would have been better off in their company pension schemes.

With more than 100 providers in the market, clearly some will offer good value, while others will offer an unholy combination of high charges and abysmal performance. To help you through the selection process we set out five basic issues to discuss with your adviser.

- What are the charges, and are they competitive?
- Is the contract flexible? Can you reduce and stop contributions, transfer the fund or take early retirement without penalty or fees?
- Is the performance consistently good over the long term?
- Is the provider financially sound? Will it still be there when your investment matures?
- How much does the advice cost? Should I pay this as commission or fees?

FINANCIAL TIMES WEEKEND DECEMBER 31 JANUARY 1 1995

THE FIVE CRUCIAL ANSWERS

■ CHARGES

In a survey of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans, the Society was shown to have the lowest charges of all the companies surveyed. The effect of some other companies' charges is more than half as much again.

Source: Money Marketing Survey 10 year with-profits personal pension plans, £100pm contribution - 19 January 1995

■ PERFORMANCE

In recent surveys of with-profits personal pension plans, The Equitable appeared in the top ten in five out of the six performance tables.

With-Profits Retirement Fund on 1.4.94

	2nd	3rd	8th
£50 a month	£600 a year	£600 a year	£5,000*
5 year term	5 year term	5 year term	5 year term
7th	£3,500*	4th	£3,000*
10 year term	15 year term		

*single contribution

Source: Money Marketing FPR With-Profits Survey 1994

These are just the results from recent surveys. We are also happy to show you evidence of our performance over many years.

Please remember that past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

■ FLEXIBILITY

With an Equitable Personal Pension Plan you may vary your contributions without penalty. If you have to stop paying contributions your

existing benefits are unaffected. What's more, we don't tie you to specific contributions. Provided the minimum contribution is made you may invest what you want when you want. Additionally, if you retire earlier than planned, there's no penalty. Your benefits will be the same as if you had chosen that date at the outset.

If you decide to transfer then we will pay a fair value.

■ FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS

Founded in 1762, The Equitable Life is the oldest mutual life assurance company in the world. The Society has never paid commission to third parties for the introduction of business: a policy which has contributed to our having the lowest ratio of acquisition expenses to new premium income of any life company in the UK. Source: Planned Savings, October 1994.

The international rating agency, Standard and Poor, when confirming the Society's AA rating said:

"The rating reflects the Society's strong market position where a very focused approach and highly efficient distribution system have fostered excellent new business growth and contributed towards Equitable's remarkably good expense performance. Furthermore, S&P regards capital strength as excellent, while investment performance over recent years has continued to be strong."

■ THE COST OF ADVICE

From the evidence we have seen so far, we believe that The Equitable spends less on the advice it gives than most other companies.

When you are picking a provider for your pension contributions, set the agenda, ask the five crucial questions recommended by the Financial Times, and ensure you get an equitable pension.

If you would like to learn more about The Equitable's Personal Pension Plan by post and by telephone return the coupon below or call Aylesbury 01296 26226.

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ALTERNATIVE TO PUTTING YOUR
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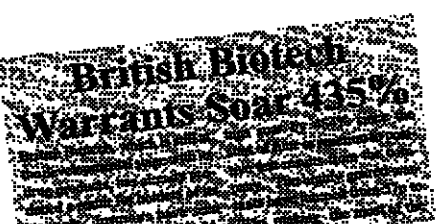
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Warrants Alert

During bull markets warrants can produce huge gains. In 1993, for example, the average gain from UK equity warrants was 222%, with the top performer rising 18-fold. Now there are signs the market is beginning to stir again, and warrants such as British Biotech and BAe have already provided handsome returns. Furthermore, several investment trusts are planning to issue new warrants - the market seems poised for another phase of rapid growth.

Warrants Alert, which has been published since 1989, explains the mechanics of the market for you, how to value warrants, and provides regular and specific advice on how to take full advantage of this exciting market. There is no other regular source of independent advice on warrants in the UK.

To help you make the most of the warrants market, you can benefit from a £30 reduction AND four FREE gifts when you subscribe. In addition to your



Introductory Guide, Warrants Directory and fortnightly updates to supplement your monthly newsletter, we will send a copy of Andrew McHattie's bestseller, *The Investor's Guide to Warrants*. The 255-page book retails for £50; you can receive a copy FREE when you subscribe.

Subscribe now and take advantage of our introductory offer - SAVE £30! Simply complete your details below (overseas, please add £15).

Warning: Because this investment may go down in value as well as up, you may not get back the full amount invested. The price of warrants can be volatile. You should not buy warrants with money you cannot afford to lose. Warrants Alert is published by The McHattie Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Tel: 01275 855555, Fax: 01275 854131.

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To (your bank) _____ Bank plc: _____

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Bank please debit my account. Other Use Only

Please return to: Warrants Alert, The Sign, Nailsea, Bristol, BS19 2EP

Sara McConnell helps you to weather a cold season of tax demands

Fallen in their estimation

Millions of people have in the past few weeks received tax demands that the Inland Revenue admits are almost certainly wrong. But anyone who does not appeal within 30 days may have to pay the full demand, even if their real income is far below that used to calculate the figures.

October marks the yearly charade of the estimated tax assessment for those who have to fill in a tax return. This system will be swept away next year in a radical overhaul and streamlining of tax collection. Until then, an estimated four and a half million self-employed and the same number again who earn extra income from freelance, investments or lettings, for example - which falls outside Pay-As-You-Earn (Paye) - will receive an estimated tax assessment.

If you are one of those, you may have filed your tax return for 1994-95 over the summer. Returns are sent out at the beginning of the tax year in April. You are meant to complete your return within 30 days but the Revenue allows you until October 31.

The Revenue says, however, that it has to start sending out tax demands in August to give people time to appeal and/or pay, even though most people have not yet filed their tax returns by then.

Also, many self-employed have year ends for their businesses that do not coincide with those for tax years. So the Revenue guesses what you have earned in 1994-95. The figures normally bear little relation to anything you have

already told the taxman and are often higher than your real income. But unless you want to pay tax on the Revenue estimate, you have to take action and appeal against the figures. Throwing the demand in the waste-paper basket is disastrous.

Accountants believe this system is time-consuming and causes serious anxiety. Andrew Shaw, of Kingston Smith, the London-based accountant, says: "It is a way of reminding people to get their affairs in order. But it is a blunt instrument and incredibly frustrating for us and the taxpayer. It is a complete waste of time and money for everyone. But you must lodge an appeal."

Maurice Fitzpatrick, of Chantrey Vellacott, the chartered accountant, says: "The figure will be a round sum, which the Revenue will say is based broadly on your current assessment. But when you get too large a figure, this can cause genuine concern."

If you need to appeal, you have several options. You can appeal against the estimate and ask for the tax to be "stood down" to give you time to tell the taxman what you have really earned.

Alternatively, you can appeal but still pay the tax demanded. When the actual figures are worked out, you pay the rest or get a rebate. If you pay the demand without appealing, you may not get a rebate if the figure turns out to be too high. If you do nothing, you could face paying tax on a higher amount than you have earned, plus interest.



Revenue to get tough as deadlines pass

Some taxpayers who do not file their tax returns on time could find themselves accruing interest on unpaid tax almost immediately. Moores Rowland, the chartered accountant, said this week. The deadline for filing 1994-95 tax returns is October 31 (Sara McConnell writes).

Annie Bailey, tax manager at Moores Rowland, said: "In order to avoid any overlap of the two systems, the Revenue will want to make sure that as many people as possible are up to date with their returns before the self-assessment regime begins in 1997."

The Revenue denied it had a "get tough" policy but said: "The last thing we want is people still trying to catch up with arrears when we move to the new system."

Those who do not file their return on time face a penalty of 7 per cent interest, calculated from the date tax would have been due if the return had been filed on time. Under the present tax regime, income

from different sources becomes liable to tax at different times of the year. Capital gains tax is due on December 1 following the end of the tax year in which it is incurred. Higher-rate taxpayers also have to pay extra tax on building society and bank

deposits and other investments from which only basic rate tax has been deducted on December 1.

Tax on income from lettings and other investments is due on January 1 following the end of the year in which it is incurred. Interest on unpaid

tax will therefore clock up from December 1. These different dates will disappear under the new system of self-assessment.

From April 1997, all income will be declared on one return and there will be one date when tax is due (except for the

self-employed - see opposite). Tax return deadlines will also come forward. Next year, in preparation for the new system, the deadline for 1995-96 returns will be October 5. In 1997, when self-assessment forms go out, returns must be back by September 30.



"I wanted a higher income..."



with no tax...



and better service.



So I chose a Fidelity MoneyBuilder Income PEP."

Compare Fidelity to some high street names					
Company	Product/Account	Notice	% Gross	After basic rate tax	After higher rate tax
Fidelity	MoneyBuilder Income	No penalties	7.9**	7.9	7.9
Investors should be aware that, unlike cash held in a bank or building society account, the capital value of investments in MoneyBuilder Income PEP is not guaranteed.					
Abbey National	Investment	90 days	3.85	2.89	2.31
Halifax	Solid Gold	90 days	4.3	3.23	2.58
N&P	Private Reserve	90 days	4.65	3.49	2.79
Lloyds	30 day Savings	30 days	4.05	3.03	2.43
Barclays	Select	90 days	5.2	3.9	3.12

Source: Money Facts 1.10.95. **Source: Fidelity estimate 6.10.95.

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and suggests ways of working out what you owe the Inland Revenue

Assessments out as DIY returns make their debut

The annual confusion over estimated tax assessments should be nothing more than a bad memory in two years' time (Sara McConnell writes). Plans to make the tax system less complex and more streamlined are intended to "get rid of the palaver of estimated assessments", as one Revenue official put it.

Under the new system, which starts in April 1997, anyone who has to fill in a tax return will have the option of working out their own tax. Then you just send in a cheque for the tax you owe. Alternatively, you can ask the Revenue to calculate what you owe. You will have to give actual figures, not estimates.

All sources of income will be filed on one tax return. If you want the Revenue to work out your tax, you will have to file by September 30 and pay your tax bill at the end of the following January. If you want

to work out things for yourself, you send in your completed return and a cheque at the end of January following the end of the tax year. If you are self-employed, you will be taxed on your profits in the year you earned them, rather than in the year after as they are at present.

You will make two payments on account, based on the previous year's figures, one in the January of the tax year and the second in July following the end of the tax year starting in April 1997. There will be no need for estimated assessments because there will be set times for filing returns and all the relevant information will be on one return.

For the first time, there will be fixed penalties for failing to put in tax returns on time. It is intended to be straightforward, but there are some complex transitional arrangements for some self-employed

people. If you started in business on or after April 6, 1994, your profits will already be taxed on a current year basis, that is, in the year that you earned them. If you were already established by April 1994, you will pay tax in January and July 1996 on the existing preceding year basis, that is, on profits earned in 1994-95.

In 1996-97, you will pay tax based on half your two years' profits in 1995-96 and 1996-97. In November 1996, you will be sent a "charge", with details of what the Revenue considers your "assessable profit", effectively a payment on account for 1996-97, based on your 1995-96 tax liability.

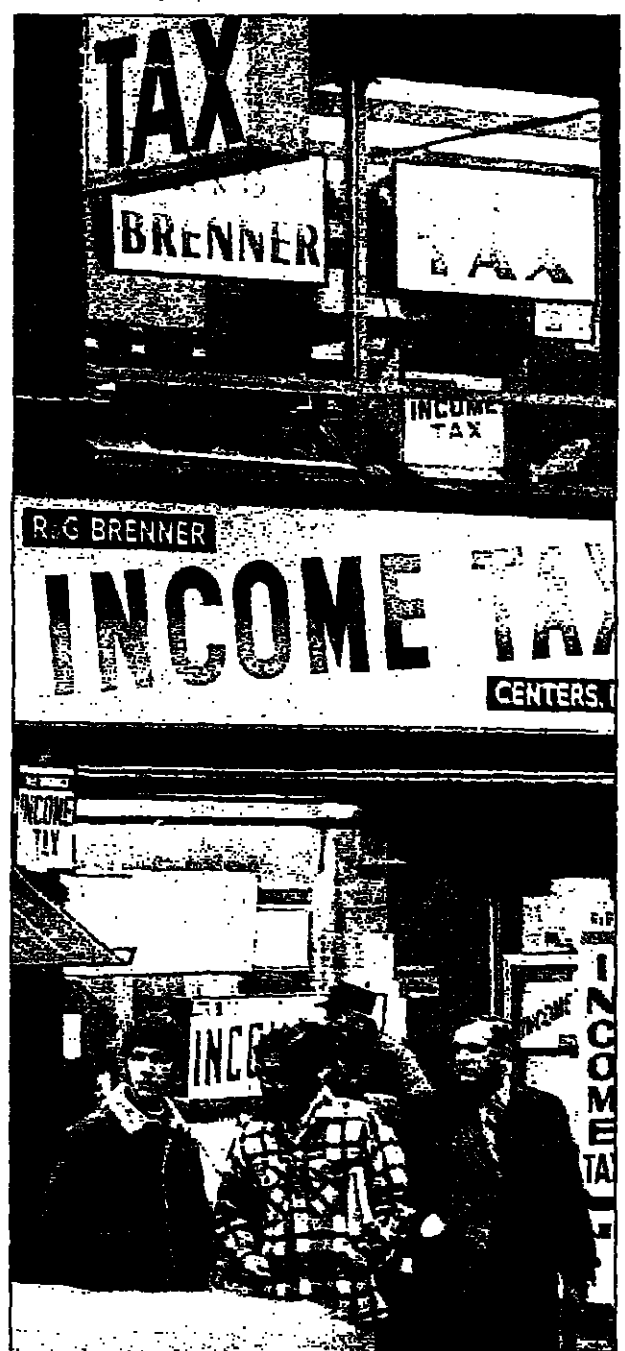
You will have to pay this in two instalments in January and July 1997. You can reduce the charge if your profits have fallen drastically over this period. You will have to pay the tax in two instalments in January and July 1997. You



Taxman Ted prepares self-assessment in for April 1997

will pay your first tax on the current year basis on profits earned in 1997-98. You will make a first payment on account in January 1998. This bill will also include any unpaid tax from 1996-97, after which all profits will be taxed in the year earned.

Americans look for happy returns in UK high streets



Tax shops, like this one in New York, may come to Britain

The typical British high street has branches of M&S, Next, Woolworths... and a tax shop. Or it could have soon. In less than two years, nine million Britons will be faced for the first time with the prospect of working out their own tax.

At the very least, they will have to give actual figures, not estimates. Either way, more people are likely to need help, but may not necessarily want to hire an accountant.

US firms are now eagerly eyeing up British high streets with a view to setting up American-style tax shops. This week H&R Block, the leading US tax return preparer, said it

'The whole country erupts into a frenzy of paperwork at the end of the tax year'

was "seriously investigating" the possibilities of the UK market, including setting up shops, and offering franchises and consultancies to British tax specialists.

although no final decision has been made. H&R Block's tax shops are a familiar sight in shopping malls across America. Chris Meck, director of franchise operations for H&R Block Tax Services, describes the company as the "volume preparer", aiming mainly at those who want help with their tax returns without having to pay an accountant.

Americans have had to work out their own tax for years and all Americans have to file tax returns. Federal, state and city returns have to be filed separately and the whole country erupts into a frenzy of paperwork in the weeks leading up to the final filing date on April 15.

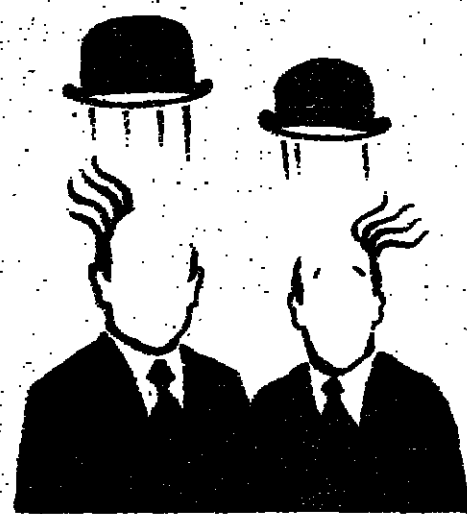
Anyone can walk into an H&R Block shop and get help with their tax return. Some people, however, prefer to make an appointment to see the same tax preparer every year, to get more of a personal service.

For the past few years, preparers have been able to fill in the return electronically and send it directly into the computers of the Internal Revenue Service, the US equivalent of the Inland Revenue, although the taxpayer still has to send a signed document to make the return legal.

Preparers have to go through an intensive three-month training course before being let loose on customers and attend regular refresher courses to keep them up to date with changes in tax law. But if they make mistakes, H&R Block guarantees that it will pay any penalties or interest incurred by customers. Mr Meck said the company had not yet investigated the British system thoroughly enough to say whether similar guarantees would apply here.

Not surprisingly, accountants in the UK are contemplating this competition uneasily. Many believe that self-assessment will be more complicated than the Revenue likes to admit and that more people will need help. But they want to be the ones to give it.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, the professional body, has published leaflets explaining how well qualified chartered accountants are to help.



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Caroline Merrell
checks progress
in the review of
mis-sold pensions

In the latest episode in the long-running personal pensions scandal, hundreds of thousands of people have, in the past few weeks, received questionnaires from the company or adviser that provided them with their personal pension. The document poses questions about the circumstances of the pension sale and is a stage in the process of compensation for those who were incorrectly advised to buy personal pensions, or transfer out of company pension schemes, in an orgy of mis-selling in the late Eighties and early Nineties.

A year ago, the Securities & Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog, outlined the plans for the compensation procedure. At stake was one issue: Whether it was in the clients' best interests to transfer out of their company pension into a personal pension, or to opt out to join an occupational scheme. In all these cases, the personal pension policyholder would be giving up guaranteed benefits for ones which were not guaranteed. They could also be giving up any contribution made by the employer. Most employers contribute to occupational schemes, but few do to personal pensions. Mineworkers and nurses are among those who have been mis-sold pensions.

The purpose of the review is to put those who have been mis-sold personal pensions back in the position they would have been in if they had not bought the pension.



Miners are among those who were mis-sold personal pensions and who may now be in line for compensation.

KEY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q Who gets the letters and questionnaires?

A The SIB ruled that it was important for insurance companies and independent financial advisers to find those who had been most disadvantaged by buying a personal pension. These will be those who had opted out of, or not joined, their company pension scheme — in most cases this would be bad advice and involves compensation. The argument against pensions transfers are not as strong.

Q What happens after the questionnaire has been filled in?

A The company will try to work out if you are a victim of mis-selling. If it finds you are, it will put you back in the position you would have been in, if you had not bought the personal pension. This could include putting you back

in the occupational scheme, or if you have subsequently retired, buying you the benefits you have given up. If you are the spouse or dependant of a policyholder who has since died, you could be in line for "death in service" benefits which your relative gave up.

Q Who pays for this process?

A Your pension provider, or your independent financial adviser, will foot the bill for this process. The money to buy back these rights will come from the personal pension you have taken out. This is

unlikely to cover the costs; any shortfall will be made up by the company or IFA. Estimates of the average cost per case range between £5,000 and £10,000.

Q Do you have to rejoin the company scheme?

A No. If you want to keep on paying into your personal pension scheme rather than rejoining your occupational one, you can do so. You may have strong objections to your company scheme, in spite of any guarantees it provides or any contributions your employer may make.

The extent of the problem

The SIB estimated the total number of opt-outs to be 450,000, non-joiners to be one million and pension transfers to be 600,000. Below are details of where some of the bigger companies are in the review process.

Allied Dunbar has sent out 200,000 questionnaires. It says it has also sent out most of the follow-ups, and has received a very good response. It claims the overwhelming majority of these are not problem cases, and only a very small percentage will be entitled to compensation. BAT: Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star's parent company has made a £125 million provision for pension compensation for both companies. Barclays has sent questionnaires to

150,000 policyholders. More than 60 per cent, or 90,000, have replied. The company said fewer than 10 per cent of these seem to be problem cases. It has so far compensated 200 people and made a provision of £58 million.

Prudential claimed it was not involved in pensions mis-selling. The company has sent out more than 220,000 questionnaires; the total will soon reach 300,000. It says it is too early to tell the extent of the problem and refuses to divulge the provision it has made in its accounts for compensation.

Pearl has sent out 260,000 questionnaires. It claims it has had a 75 per cent response rate, but says it is too early to say what the results of the review are.

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Ruling out the risk of a fiasco

Robert Miller on innovations in the venture capital industry

Investors in venture capital should view the roller-coaster antics of the stock market this week — down 30 points on Tuesday alone before making up lost ground — with a degree of calm. For a start, the shares in the underlying companies are not quoted and the good venture capital managers — the business angels — are adept at assessing different degrees of risk — that is, after all, their business.

But if timing, not to mention a bit of luck, is all in investment, then it is even more crucial in venture capital companies. For every success there are at least two failures. The good news for investors is that, at long last, the venture capital industry is beginning to polarise with different investment vehicles operating in more clearly defined markets.

The latest innovation is the new-style Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs) which offer tax breaks. VCT shares must be held for five years, although income may be withdrawn during that period. To date, only Murray Johnstone has a VCT up and running after raising just over £18 million. Baroness and Northern Venture Managers, have offers open, while Friends Provident may join in soon.

VCTs are a government-inspired vehicle which Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had hoped would raise billions of pounds in the first few years. Actually, if they raise hundreds of millions of pounds in that time, they will have done well.

There are those who say that a lot of money has already been recently raised through other venture capital vehicles, such as specialist investment trusts and funds, and much of it still has to be invested. Too much money waiting for suitable venture capital situations — more than 60 per cent is being invested in management buyouts and buy-outs — is almost as bad as too little

funding. Tim Levett, investment director of Northern Venture Managers, which hopes to raise at least £15 million for its VCT, says that it is taking time to explain to investors the key differences between the new VCT and the old, and largely discredited, BES (Business Expansion Scheme). He believes: "There are now strict rules in place so that there will not be a repeat of the old BES fiascos of the late 1980s." Then, anybody could start up a BES.

Now, says Mr Levett: "We have to satisfy the Stock Exchange that we have a proven track record of at least three years in managing venture capital money and that we have managed funds the size of which are at least as big as the sum we are trying to raise." The underlying investment in a VCT cannot exceed £1 million in any one company in a year and that company must have gross assets of less than £10 million.

Northern Ventures can point the Stock Exchange in the direction of its Northern Investors investment trust to establish its credibility. In the past year, the Micropal figures show it has produced a near 18 per cent return on every £100 invested, not taking into account dealing charges.

The most risk-averse route to venture capital is through the Venture and Capital Development sector of quoted investment trusts. This is dominated by 3i, the flagship of the movement. But there are many other managers who have made their mark, including Electra, Dunedin, Abingworth, Foreign & Colonial, Murray Johnstone, Kleinwort, Candover and Shroders.

There is always investing directly into a company. The British Venture Capital Association or the NatWest Angels Service can act as an introducer. The BVCA (0171-240 3846) offers a series of useful free publications.



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Pet Plan, the animal insurance specialist, has launched an unsecured loan service aimed at horse-owners. Pet Plan Equine Finance offers loans of up to £10,000 for virtually any purpose, enabling potential owners to buy a horse or existing owners to purchase a new horse or tack. For a brochure and full product details, call 0800 136882.

Policy Portfolio, who deal with traded endowment policies (Teps), has published a guide called *How to Sell an Endowment Policy* which explains the possibility of selling an unwanted policy as an alternative to surrendering it. The guide is available free to policyholders by calling the Policy Portfolio helpline on 0181 343 4567 or, alternatively, by writing to the company at: Gadd House, Arcadia Avenue, London N3 2JU.

A new framework contract has been produced for use between residents of care homes and care providers. The Continuing Care Conference (CCC) is seeking to raise national standards throughout the care industry and hopes that the written contract will make it easier to assess a home's suitability. For a free copy of the contract, write to CCC, 12 Little College Street, London, SW1P 2SH.

Leek United Building Society has published an easy-to-read guide through the mortgage maze. *The Homeowner's Directory* sets out the types of mortgages available, the procedures involved in buying a home and the additional costs to be considered. It is available from branches of Leek United or by calling 0800 136604.

Columbus Travel Insurance has announced premium reductions of up to 29 per cent on more than 30 policies. The reductions, aimed primarily at the fast-expanding long-haul market, are particularly relevant for those planning long visits. Call Columbus Travel Insurance on 0171 375 0011.

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	20,000	AIG Life	5.25
	50,000	AIG Life	5.30
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	20,000	AIG Life	5.60
	50,000	AIG Life	5.65
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.75
	50,000	AIG Life	5.80
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	6.00
	50,000	AIG Life	6.10
5 Years			
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Bradford & Bingley BS 0345 248248	Direct 60	60 day p	£50,000	7.00	Y/y
Allied Trust Bank 0171 626 0879	6 Month Notice	6 month	£10,000	7.50	B/y/y

CREDIT CARDS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest rate per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.98%G	12.40%	N/C
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12

PERSONAL LOANS

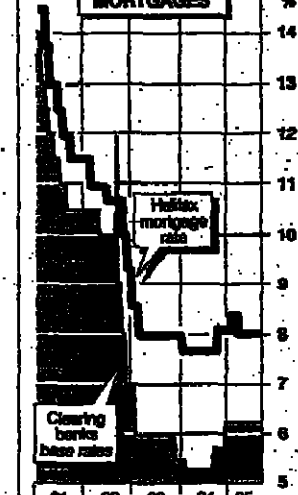
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	18.20%	£113.94	£103.33
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£108.14
M&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£109.29

Notes: A - Fee/charge required. In the interest paid column, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per month E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); G = denotes interest paid on maturity.

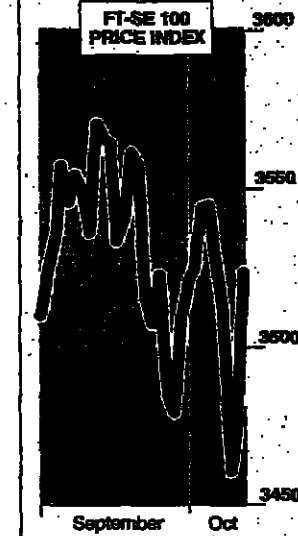
* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING.

Sources: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01802 500 677)

BASE RATES V



FT-SE 100



PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Birmingham Midshires	9.575%	93.73	93.98	100.17
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	115.28	10.070	100.13
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	128.65	10.092	100.20
Bristol & West	13.375%	131.28	10.179	100.34
Britannia	13.000%	127.09	10.211	100.42
Cowen	12.125%	118.75	10.191	100.75
First National	11.750%	109.85	10.765	100.25
Halifax	12.500%	98.18	9.811	100.62
Halifax	12.000%	120.48	9.812	100.28
Halifax (was Lds Perm)	13.625%	137.08	9.922	100.00
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	130.87	10.201	100.23
Newcastle	10.750%	107.51	9.991	100.32
Newcastle	12.625%	126.19	9.994	100.45
Northern Rock	12.825%	128.07	9.839	100.14
Skipton	12.875%	126.74	10.140	100.48

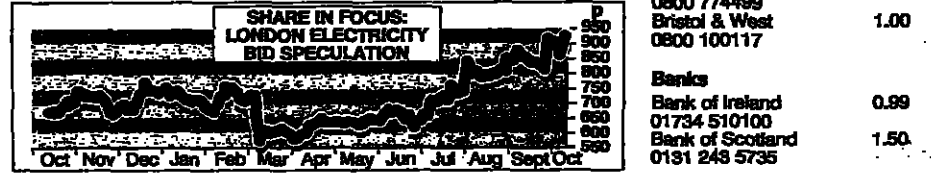
PIBS = Permanent Interest-bearing Shares. Source: ABI AMRO Home Govest - 0171 801 0101

FLOATING RATE

Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	9.35469%	100.75	100.00
Cheshire (28/03-28/09) 9.50156%	102.825	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent Interest-bearing Shares. Source: ABI AMRO Home Govest - 0171 801 0101

SHARE IN FOCUS: LONDON ELECTRICITY



Lender

Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	1.89	neg	95
Yorkshire	1.89	neg	95
0800 378838	1.89	neg	95
Bristol & West	1.89	neg	95
0800 100117	1.89	neg	95
Northern Rock	1.89	neg	95
0800 591 500	1.89	neg	95
Bank of Ireland	1.89	neg	95
01753 510100	1.89	neg	95
Bank of Scotland	1.89	neg	95
0800 494999	1.89	neg	95

Lender

Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	1.50	£80-120k	80
Chorley & District	1.50	£80-120k	80
01257 278793	1.50	£80-120k	80
Hindley & Pugh	1.50	£80-120k	80
0800 774099	1.50	£80-120k	80
Bristol & West	1.50	£80-120k	80
0800 100117	1.50	£80-120k	80
Bank of Ireland	1.50	£80-120k	80
01753 510100	1.50	£80-120k	80
Bank of Scotland	1.50	£80-120k	80
0800 494999	1.50	£80-120k	80

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential - Level	£10,377	£11,391	£12,756	
Equitable Life - Level	£10,272	£11,177	£12,584	
Royal Life - Level	£10,250	£11,361	£12,894	
Canada Life - Level	£10,058	£11,227	£12,810	
Strand Life - Level	£10,136	£11,204	£12,584	

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 581 8282)

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
General - Level	£9,246	£10,091	£11,293	
Royal Life - Level	£9,500	£10,330	£11,555	
Canada Life - Level	£9,230	£10,027	£11,300	
Equitable Life - Level	£9,625	£10,255	£11,428	
Prudential - Level	£9,625	£10,255	£11,428	

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 581 8282)

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential - Level	£9,237	£9,803	£10,599	
Royal Life - Level	£9,046	£9,682	£10,583	
Equitable Life - Level	£9,046	£9,682	£10,583	
Canada Life - Level	£9,119	£9,732	£10,581	
General - Level	£9,119	£9,732	£10,581	

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 581 8282)

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Source: Annuity Direct (0171 581 8282)

How to a
Burgur



La dégustation: do not overlook classic white burgundy, where the chardonnay grape comes into its element

How to acquire a taste for Burgundy's liquid asset

Conal Gregory, master of wine, on the value of appreciating a vintage

Burgundy is one of the most important wine regions of the world and yet its wines are often overlooked in the investor's cellar, partly on account of publicity for claret and port.

Yet, for the careful purchaser, good rewards can be secured — as — seeing Richebourg 1978 vintage from Domaine de la Romanée-Conti (DRC) jump from £720 eight years ago to £1,600 today, per case.

Pinot Noir is the backbone of red burgundy. This is a most difficult grape to cultivate with only limited success elsewhere such as in California (Mondavi), Oregon (Willamette Valley), Tasmania and Washington State (Columbia Winery). This means that world demand is directed at a small area south of Dijon.

Production is tiny. A first growth claret, like Chateau Margaux, makes about 32,000 dozen bottles a year from 75 hectares (about 185 acres). By comparison, Appellation La Romanée, the smallest burgundy, yields 330 dozen bottles from just 0.85 ha (about 2.1 acres). To complicate matters, many vineyards are subdivided with multi-ownership, such as 82 for Clos de Vougeot.

The starting point is to buy the grands crus, which carry the vineyard alone on the label (such as Chambertin or Musigny). Then look for the lead-

ing producers, starting with DRC. There is enormous American, Belgian, British and Swiss demand for this winemaker.

At auction, DRC's Grands-Echézeaux 1971 has risen from £950 per dozen seven years ago to £2,400 today. However, take care with DRC vintages from 1991 onwards, many feel their standards have fallen.

Stocks of DRC are scarce. As examples of current prices, Booths of Preston offer 1990 Echézeaux at £910 and 1988 La Tâche at £2,220, both per dozen bottles including VAT.

After DRC, in the Côte de Nuits, look for Armand Rousseau of Gevrey-Chambertin, Ponsot in Morey St Denis and Comte Georges de Vogüé in Chambolle-Musigny. These producers have estates in the leading appellations whose wines show an elegance that is much sought after.

Both Rousseau and de Vogüé are in Justerini and Brooks's current offer of 1993 burgundies. Look particularly for the former's Chambertin Grand Cru at £720 and de Vogüé's Bonnes Mares at £780, which Justerini expects

to be ready from 2005.

For those who like the softer wines of the Beaune district, look for Comte Lafon and Marquis d'Angerville. Both consistently make outstanding Volnay. Also try to purchase larger size bottles as — in the long term — they rise markedly more than standard 75cl bottles. This week, Sotheby's offered magnums of 1985 DRC Grands-Echézeaux and double magnums of 1976 and 1985 Richebourg.

Do not overlook classic white burgundy. Here the chardonnay grape comes into its element. Le Montrachet is the finest district, first mentioned in 1482.

As Anthony Hanson says in *Burgundy*: "Nobody disputes its place today as potentially the greatest white wine of Burgundy."

If looking for one producer, single out Domaine Leflaive whose 21 hectares (almost 52 acres) include Le Montrachet, Chevalier-Montrachet and Puligny-Montrachet. Good white burgundy is traditionally offered by both Farr Vintners (0171 828 1960) and Robert Rolls (0171 248 8382).

Vintages can greatly affect price. For red burgundy, 1993 looks very promising, 1994 even better, 1989 fair to good, and 1988 splendid (the best since 1978). On white, 1992 is outstanding, the like of which has not been seen for years.

BOUNTY IN A BOTTLE			
Red burgundy from Domaine de la Romanée-Conti (Per case)			
Wine	Vintage	Price at Auction £	Now
Richebourg	1978	720*	1,600
	1971	700-820**	2,880
	1970	290*	660
	1968	1,080	1,980
	1969	400-420	720
Grands-Echézeaux	1982	250-280	460
	1971	950	2,420
	1970	240-310	520
Echézeaux	1978	480	790

*Sale price in 1987. **Sale price in 1985. Source: Christie, Manson and Woods Limited.

Expert help for charity trustees

MORE than half a million people act as unpaid trustees to charities. The work they do is invaluable to the health and vitality of the charity sector which last year reported gross annual income of £12.8 billion.

But, as a new book published today points out, the responsibilities facing trustees are more onerous than many expect. Andrew Hind, in the introduction to his book, *The Governance and Management of Charities* (CDS) says: "At its simplest, good governance practice in a charity requires trustees to be clear about what the charity is seeking to achieve and how, with 'no financial bottom line', they will know when the goal has been attained... this is more difficult in practice than many trustees assume."

As a former senior executive of Barnardos and ActionAid, together with a number of other leading roles in the sector, Mr Hind has considerable first-hand knowledge to impart in his 512-page book, which is backed by BZW and BDO Stoy Hayward.

The high-profile charities have offers large enough to call in expert help. But the giants are in a minority and most cannot afford professional fees. As Mr Hind, himself a trustee of two small charities, says, some 80 per cent of the 179,000 registered charities in England and Wales have an annual income of less than £10,000. This book provides trustees and others involved in charities with an invaluable guide. For details, call Voluntary Sector Press 0181-449 8867.

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	98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Mystery shrouds positive result

New Zealand back drug-test purge that snared Eru

By Christopher Irvine

WHILE supporting the decision to suspend Syd Eru, the most notable of the three players thrown out of the World Cup for testing positive for drugs, the New Zealand Rugby League (NZRL) said yesterday that it was mystified by the case.

Eru, 24, tested positive for pseudo-ephedrine after New Zealand's opening match, against Tonga last Sunday, and Gary Freeman, the veteran former New Zealand captain and scrum half, took his place at hooker in the deciding group match against Papua New Guinea at St Helens last night.

The stimulant is found in cold remedies and is on the International Olympic Committee list of banned drugs. The Auckland Warriors player has told the team management that he had not been prescribed any cold cure, but had taken a vitamin replacement supplement.

The NZRL is having the supplement tested to see if it

contains any traces of pseudo-ephedrine. Graham Carden, the NZRL chairman, said: "Syd Eru assured us his preparation for the World Cup has been no different to usual. He was tested four times during the Winfield Cup season with Auckland and there were no problems."

All players were tested before leaving their home base and on arrival at the tournament. Some random tests were made after matches by the Sports Council's drug-testing unit, in one of the most extensive testing programmes undertaken at a sporting event in this country.

Carden said that the NZRL had full confidence in Stew Thompson, the team doctor, and the advice that he had given players, but was fully behind the actions of World Cup organisers in suspending those who tested positive, and the strict testing policy of the International Rugby League Board.

"We want the sport to be

seen as both clear of drug abuse and tough on players who step out of line," Carden said. "We are now awaiting the outcome of Eru's B sample and, while accepting that he tested positive for pseudo-ephedrine, which is at the lower level of banned substances, the NZRL fully understands that a strict policy of punishment for players who do offend must be maintained."

Further action against the three offenders is being left to their respective national associations. Pierre Grobbelaar, of South Africa, whose positive test for nandrolone, the performance-enhancing steroid, was by far the most serious, is to be prevented from taking up a contract at Dewsbury after the tournament.

Stephane Millet, the third player, who tested for cannabis, was a late addition to the France squad. He had apparently smoked the drug at a party two days before. Tas Baitieri, the France team manager, said: "It's going to cost him dearly and he's very upset, because he knows he's ruined his reputation and brought a stigma to French rugby league."

Since random drug tests began in rugby league in 1987, there have been isolated incidents of cannabis abuse and use of banned substances in cough mixtures, for which players have been suspended for up to six months. Grobbelaar's is the third case in a year of a player caught taking steroids. In this country, the ban has been raised from two to four years for steroid offences.



Daniel Bailes, 11, played in goal for the Two Mile Ash Middle School hockey team yesterday in an inaugural match against Milton Keynes Preparatory School as part of the opening ceremony for a new National Hockey Centre in Milton Keynes (Sydney Friskin writes). Work on the pitch, main stand, a function suite and office accommodation will be completed within the next month and the centre should be fully operational by early next year.

The stadium, with a potential capacity of 15,000, will stage the men's under-21 hockey World Cup in September 1997. Grants from the Sports Council, the Foundation for Sport and the Arts and the national hockey associations have helped to fund the £9.3 million development so far. A National Lottery grant of £5.5 million is sought to help to cover the cost of a second pitch, north stand and residential accommodation. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Schultz makes aggressive return

By Our Sports Staff

BRETT SCHULTZ, the South Africa left-arm fast bowler, burst back into international cricket yesterday with four Zimbabwe wickets on the first day of the one-off Test match between the two nations. Barry Jarman, the match referee, into the bargain.

Schultz, playing his first Test for 26 months after chronic knee problems, took four for 54 and Allan Donald three for 42 as Zimbabwe were dismissed for 170.

However, Zimbabwe re-

claimed some of the initiative through Heath Streak, their fast bowler. He provided a late flourish to the innings with 53, his maiden Test fifty, and then seized two wickets to leave South Africa on 74 for three at the close.

Schultz's impressive return

was marred by an incident

when he had Dave Houghton caught behind by Dave Richardson for five. The bowler pointed the former Zimbabwe captain towards the pavilion with a clenched-fist gesture that brought a reprimand from Jarman, the former Australian wicketkeeper.

After Zimbabwe won the toss in the first Test meeting between the teams, Donald

removed Mark Dekker, the opener, for one and Schultz followed up with three quick wickets.

Andy Flower, the Zimbabwe captain, was his first victim, out for seven when an attempted off-drive found the inside edge of his bat and was deflected on to his stumps. He beat Houghton for pace, providing Richardson with one of

four catches in the innings, among them Alistair Campbell, who departed for nought in Schultz's eighth over.

Streak came to the wicket at 84 for seven after Craig Matthews had removed Guy Whittall and Paul Strang with successive balls. He started by attacking Pat Symcox, the off-spinner, hitting a huge six into Harare Sports Club's famous jacaranda trees.

Streak continued his fine all-round form by removing Gary Kirsten before for one and Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, for five.

Daryll Cullinan had scored 11 before giving Charlie Lock his first Test wicket by steering a long-hop straight to Whittall at cover, but Andrew Hudson, Kirsten's opening partner, responded defiantly to the fall of wickets with an attacking 45 not out that included two hooked sixes off Lock.

SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE: First Innings		
M H Dekker c Hudson b Donald	1	
G W Flower c Richardson b Donald	24	
A J Flower b Schultz	7	
D J Houghton c Richardson b Schultz	5	
A D Richardson c Schultz b Schultz	15	
G J Whittall c Richardson b Matthews	29	
C B Wishart c Kirsten b Symcox	24	
P A Strang b Matthews	19	
H H Streak c McDonald b Donald	53	
C Lock not out	0	
B Streak b Schultz	0	
C Lock not out	0	
E Cates (lb w, w, no 4)	19	
Total (all out, 10 w, 5 no 4)	170	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-12, 3-22, 4-23, 5-71, 6-84, 7-84, 8-122, 9-128		

Pakistani pair equal single-over record

PAKISTAN brushed aside West Indies by 15 runs yesterday to record their second successive win in the triangular Champions Trophy cricket tournament in Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates.

The strength of the resurgent world champions, who defeated Sri Lanka on Thursday, was demonstrated by the partnership between Moin Khan and Ramiz Raja, who hammered Ian Bishop for 27 runs off a single over, Khan hitting sixes on three of the last four balls. Their achievement equalled the record in one-day cricket.

Election to bat first, Pakistan recovered from a shaky 49 for three in the eighteenth over to post a commanding 242 for four in their stipulated 50 overs. West Indies were all

out for 227 in reply. It was their second defeat in the three-nation tournament, having lost to Sri Lanka.

Richie Richardson's side now needs to win both its remaining matches in the

two-leg league to stay in contention for a place in the final next Friday.

Pakistan's innings was built around a 141-run partnership between Raja, the captain, and Basit Ali after

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN		
Aamir Sohail c Brown b Bishop	10	
Salam Butt c Harper b Cummins	9	
Ramiz Raja not out	104	
Basit Ali c Brown b Cummins	19	
Best Ali c Harper b Cummins	64	
Extras (lb 1, w 8, nb 1)	10	
Total (all out, 50 overs)	242	
Zahir Iqbal, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq and Asif Javed did not bat.		
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-24, 3-49, 4-190		
BOWLING: Bishop 10-0-78-1, Cummins 10-0-47-3, Richardson 10-0-30-1, West 9-0-61-2, Zahir 1-0-13-0, Saqlain 10-1-47-4, Sohail 10-1-40-1, Mushtaq 10-1-38-1		
Men of the match: Ramiz Raja		

West Indies had claimed three early wickets. Raja was unbeaten on 104, with seven fours and a six.

Khan boosted the score with a quickfire 27 not out off ten balls. The innings ended in thunderous style with that 27 off the final over from Bishop. Raja completed his hundred with a four and took a single off Bishop's next ball.

Khan then dispatched the last four balls for six, four, six, six. Their efforts equalled that of Salim Malik and Asif Mujtaba, also of Pakistan, who took 27 off Mushtaq Murtaza, the Sri Lanka spinner, last year.

West Indies paid the penalty for reckless batting. Brian Lara proved typical. He hit 21 off 15 balls, before being caught, skying a risky shot.

Weakened Southgate face trial of strength

THE hockey season enters its second week with an early trial of strength tomorrow between Southgate and Reading at Broomfield School, where Southgate will again be without Soma Singh, their injured captain.

Tony Wizek, who has pushed his way up from the fourth XI, will fill in at centre back for Southgate alongside Waugh. Up front, they will have Woods, Simons — who scored three against Stourport last week — and Freeman in a three-pronged attack.

Reading propose to operate with two front-runners — Pearn, formerly of Gloucester City, with Mark Hoskin lending support, and Howard, his brother, playing farther back in a team that looks balanced.

The Hounslow side for the home match against Guildford tomorrow will not include Hazlitt, who will be away for several weeks. Although well fortified in defence, Hounslow face a hard task holding off the Guildford quintet of Cartmell, Williams, Hall, Powell and Markham. Behind them will be Jennings, Guildford's main motivator.

East Grinstead, who visit Barford Tigers, will have Westwood in goal as a replacement for Luckes, who is ill. Gibson will lead the attack assisted by Stuart Head on the right and Bhatti on the left.

Other important matches tomorrow include Stourport's visit to Cannock and Havant's home game against Old Loughtonians. In the only match scheduled for today, Carbury last week, will be at home to Indian Gymkhana.

Wales prepare for a storm

By Christopher Irvine

WILL the Samoan storm, that devastated France in Cardiff on Thursday, have blown itself out by the time that it reaches Swansea tomorrow evening? Wales must be hoping so.

Those in the Wales camp who thought that Western Samoa were being talked up as potentially formidable opponents were hastily revising their opinions yesterday after the Samoans' irresistible performance in overwhelming France, 56-10. "Considering it was the first time they had played together, they were very impressive," Clive Griffiths, the Wales coach, said.

"They ran the ball superbly and their close support play was brilliant in setting up ten tries — but France were a different side against us. They were decimated by injuries on Thursday and showed all the signs of a battle-worn outfit who didn't have the will to fight."

For the winner, the reward is a semi-final against England at Old Trafford next Saturday in what always looked a showdown of fasci-

nating possibilities, even before the World Cup began. What remains untested are the Samoans' defensive qualities and, for all that they carved apart a tired and dispirited France, their handling. A repeat of the number of handling errors that they made in that game might be at their peril against Wales.

Griffiths, who is counting on Scott Quinnell's debut giving Wales more of an edge in the forwards, said: "They will find us a far tougher proposi-

tion, particularly with a carrot of a semi-final place and a big crowd behind us."

Quinnell has fully recovered from an ankle injury, yet does represent something of a risk. Not only has he been out of action for five weeks, but also his inclusion breaks up the back-row partnership of Paul Moriarty, Mark Perrett, who is dropped, and Richard Eyres, which was successful against France and in winning the European championship last season.

Neil Cowie, who withdrew from the game against France just before his wife gave birth to a daughter, returns to the substitutes' bench in place of Mark Jones. After Wales accidentally made one more than the permitted four replacements against France last Monday, officials will monitor any changes especially carefully.



Quinnell: recalled

Wales vs Western Samoa, Swansea, tomorrow (11.15am). Wales: (1) Jones, (2) Griffiths, (3) Jones, (4) Jones, (5) Jones, (6) Jones, (7) Jones, (8) Jones, (9) Jones, (10) Jones, (11) Jones, (12) Jones, (13) Jones, (14) Jones, (15) Jones, (16) Jones, (17) Jones, (18) Jones, (19) Jones, (20) Jones, (21) Jones, (22) Jones, (23) Jones, (24) Jones, (25) Jones, (26) Jones, (27) Jones, (28) Jones, (29) Jones, (30) Jones, (31) Jones, (32) Jones, (33) Jones, (34) Jones, (35) Jones, (36) Jones, (37) Jones, (38) Jones, (39) Jones, (40) Jones, (41) Jones, (42) Jones, (43) Jones, (44) Jones, (45) Jones, (46) Jones, (47) Jones, (48) Jones, (49) Jones, (50) Jones, (51) Jones, (52) Jones, (53) Jones, (54) Jones, (55) Jones, (56) Jones, (57) Jones, (58) Jones, (59) Jones, (60) Jones, (61) Jones, (62) Jones, (63) Jones, (64) Jones, (65) Jones, (66) Jones, (67) Jones, (68) Jones, (69) Jones, (70) Jones, (71) Jones, (72) Jones, (73) Jones, (74) Jones, (75) Jones, (76) Jones, (77) Jones, (78) Jones, (79) Jones, (80) Jones, (81) Jones, (82) Jones, (83) Jones, 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Totting-up system in the dock over ban on Richards

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NOTHING is more certain than that the Rugby Football Union (RFU) experiment with the disciplinary system, totting-up points for infractions, has failed. Dean Richards, the high-profile victim of the system, will continue for the season. To do otherwise would negate the purpose of the experiment and be inequitable for those, like Richards, already ensnared.

It could be argued that Richards should have been more careful where he placed his feet — or his fists — and that he pays the penalty for accumulating two yellow warning cards with the fourth-nights suspension handed out by the Leicester disciplinary committee. However, Richards's own suggestion is fair: that offenders should be given penalty points so that totting-up takes more than two games into account.

It is impossible to compare rugby union to football, the model for the card system. So much in rugby is open to interpretation. One could contend that if, for example, a player is found for stamping five times out of ten that

opponent has put himself there deliberately to prevent quick release of the ball. Ironically, Richards, who is considering an appeal, receives a greater punishment for not being sent off than John Fowler, the Sale lock dismissed against Orrell, who was rested by his club the next Saturday and restored after receiving a week's suspension that he had already served.

It is the intention of officials — administrators and referees — to keep players on the field, not have them sent off, suspended or unable to play. Roy Manock, the RFU's disciplinary officer, said. Clearly, the threat of suspension to the Rotherham pack, all of whom were shown the yellow card in the Pilkington Cup tie with Coventry last week, was withdrawn yesterday, when Chris Harrison, the East Midlands referee, explained that it was a "man-management gesture" and not an official caution — which is not what the system was introduced for.

Only five players in the 64 clubs constituting the national divisions have been liable for punishment since its introduc-

tion in January, but there has been sympathy for the Leicestershire Rugby Union, which had to rule on an unprecedented situation, against one of its country's most popular players and who previously held a good record.

"It was a very tough evening," Alan Wells, the county secretary, said. "I don't feel that the RFU have prepared the ground for dealing with yellow cards well enough and we will be writing to them with some observations about the new ruling."

The England management will be aware that Martin Johnson and Richard Wootton, two of their squad locks, have been shown yellow cards this season and must steer clear of trouble for the next 24 weeks. Richards himself believes that Twickenham itself should establish a central court to deal with players who, in a few months, will be contracted professionals either with countries or clubs. "I am very disappointed, but it was a fair hearing," he said.

Whether the suspension will directly affect Richards's international career is a moot point. He will miss the Courage Clubs Championship match with Wasps next Saturday, but selection for England's game against South Africa on November 18 will not be made until the first weekend in November and the team management is committed to changing the back row, to allow for the inclusion of a genuine open-side flanker.

Thus Richards already faced a challenge at No 8 from players such as Ben Clarke and Tony Diprose, and, at 32, time is not on his side.

Elsewhere, Will Carling misses Harlequins' visit to Sale, but Rob Andrew will play for Wasps against Gloucester despite the battering that he received last weekend against Bath. Northampton, who lead the second division, give Jonathan Bell, the Ireland international, a game at full back and move Michael Dods to the wing against Blackheath.

Jones transfers from victors to vanquished

CARDIFF, who lost their unbeaten Heineken League record to Bridgend ten days ago, may be said to have taken their revenge. Gareth Jones, 20, one of the two young internationals in the Bridgend midfield, has transferred to the capital and will become available after serving the two-week eligibility period. (David Hands writes.)

It is a frank acknowledgement by Cardiff that, at 33, Mark Ring's career has only a limited shelf-life. With Mike Hall, another international centre, missing through injury, Cardiff have taken immediate steps by recruiting Jones. Bridgend, who also without Ian Garsdale, the suspended hooker, for the visit to Neath where Mike Carling-

ton plays his first league game on the wing for Neath since returning from rugby league with St Helens.

Two former international locks, Tony Copsey, of Llanelli, and Kevin Moseley, of Newport, begin a ten-week and four-week ban respectively. Julian Williams stands by to replace Copsey against Newbridge, while Mike Voyle returns from the back row to his accustomed position for Newport's visit to Swansea.

Ian Jones, the New Zealand lock, is to appear in court next week on a charge of assault, laid by Junior Parameore, the Western Samoa international. They were involved in an off-the-ball incident when North Harbour, Jones's team, played Counties.



Charlie Wren, of ICL Dublin, aims his pitch at the pin during the Ireland regional final of the Corporate Golf Challenge yesterday

Teamwork adds up to success for Unisys

By MEL WEBB

THE winners of the Ireland regional final of The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge yesterday may have encountered the odd problem negotiating the Rockmount course, most did. They did not, however, have any bother adding up their scores.

The victorious team came from Unisys, the information management group, that is the official supplier of information computer services to the PGA European Tour. Compared with the manifold demands of the Tour, calculating their Stableford points total in the Challenge was but child's play.

Robert Johnston, the winner's captain, the general manager of Unisys Ireland, made no particular demands

of his team other than that they should win. "We had a captain who was totally convinced from the time the first ball was struck that we were going to make it to La Manga," Eddie Moroney, who, with Trevor Clyde, made up the team, said. Nothing less than first place would do, it seemed.

The number that the four players fed into their memory banks from the off was five. They felt that five points a hole would take them very close to success, and events were to prove them almost right — Unisys won with a score of 91 points, three ahead of Digital Equipment Corporation, with United Dominions Trust third on 85.

It was decided that the two men in the team who were armed with oversized drivers, Moroney, a 12-handicapper,



and Clyde, who plays off 13, would lead the way with Davidson, a 13-handicapper, driving third and Johnston, a 24-handicapper, going last and using the benefit of the 21 shots that he received.

The result was a performance that revealed unremarkable individual efforts, but that was made into a winning score by close-knit teamwork. On no hole did they score more than six points, but they had five sixes,

nine fives and only four fours on their card.

They started from the 10th, and immediately collected solid five-point hauls on the first four holes, followed by a brace of sixes. The target was being hit with regularity from the off, and continued to be through a front nine that yielded 46 points. They were only slightly less consistent on their back nine, coming home with 45 points.

The company golf day that brought the team to the beautiful and impressive new Rockmount course 11 miles southwest of Belfast was held at Mount Juliet, 90 minutes' drive from Dublin, and there lies another tale. Unisys's link with the European Tour means that they hold their golf day on the course that is being used for that year's Irish Open.

The shot of the day, never mind those that won prizes for being nearest to the hole and hitting the longest drive, was that struck by one Garth Morton, of ICL. Morton hit his tee-shot on the par-three 9th with more than his fair share of draw, and his ball hit the clubhouse roof, smashed into and broke the windscreen of a car put on display by Citroën, one of the event sponsors, plunged through some shrubbery and rolled on to the green. Surely this was no time for trick shots.

RESULTS: 1st, Unisys Ltd. (91); 2nd, Digital Equipment Corp. (85); 3rd, United Dominions Trust (85); 4th, ICL (85); 5th, ICL (85); 6th, ICL (85); 7th, ICL (85); 8th, ICL (85); 9th, ICL (85); 10th, ICL (85); 11th, ICL (85); 12th, ICL (85); 13th, ICL (85); 14th, ICL (85); 15th, ICL (85); 16th, ICL (85); 17th, ICL (85); 18th, ICL (85); 19th, ICL (85); 20th, ICL (85); 21st, ICL (85); 22nd, ICL (85); 23rd, ICL (85); 24th, ICL (85); 25th, ICL (85); 26th, ICL (85); 27th, ICL (85); 28th, ICL (85); 29th, ICL (85); 30th, ICL (85); 31st, ICL (85); 32nd, ICL (85); 33rd, ICL (85); 34th, ICL (85); 35th, ICL (85); 36th, ICL (85); 37th, ICL (85); 38th, ICL (85); 39th, ICL (85); 40th, ICL (85); 41st, ICL (85); 42nd, ICL (85); 43rd, ICL (85); 44th, ICL (85); 45th, ICL (85); 46th, ICL (85); 47th, ICL (85); 48th, ICL (85); 49th, ICL (85); 50th, ICL (85); 51st, ICL (85); 52nd, ICL (85); 53rd, ICL (85); 54th, ICL (85); 55th, ICL (85); 56th, ICL (85); 57th, ICL (85); 58th, ICL (85); 59th, ICL (85); 60th, ICL (85); 61st, ICL (85); 62nd, ICL (85); 63rd, ICL (85); 64th, ICL (85); 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Alhaarth full of classic promise

The story of the race is

Carson gives a whip salute after Alhaarth's decisive victory in the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket yesterday

Provided Alhaarth winters well, the 2000 Guineas would appear to be his for the taking. However, the abundance of speed which he has displayed raises a question mark over his chances in the Derby, for which he is 3-1 favourite.

“The Derby has got to be a question mark. He has a lot of speed and is out of an Irish River mare which gives you a slight doubt. We won't know the answer to next year but if I was a betting person I would leave the Derby to later on,” Carson said.

The prize-money won by Bint Salsabil and the runner-up, Parrot Jungle, in the Rockfell Stakes, plus Singing Patriarch's Canerick win, helped John Dunlop to draw almost level with Saeed bin Suroor in the race for the trainers' title. The Arundel trainer has sound prospects of winning today's Champion Stakes with Bahri and Salaman in the hands of Cesarewitch. Dunlop looks even bigger certainty than Alhaarth to be a champion in his own right.

trained Timarida contest the E. P. Taylor Stakes on the same card.

paper you'd expect to make you a classic CD offer.

7-2; 2. Gone For Lunch (3-1); 3. Blake Bailey (5-2 fav). 11. per. Sh. ind. 11. J J O'Neill. Totals: \$4.30; \$1.70, \$1.70, \$1.20. DF: \$7.40. Thr: \$8.40. CSF: \$14.09.

Saturday portrait: Alan Ball, by Michael Henderson

Survival represents tall order for manager with plenty to prove

The Manchester derby at Old Trafford today brings together football teams whose recent achievements and future prospects could not be polarised more expressively. Manchester United may be out of two cup competitions, but they are determined to reclaim the FA Cup Premiership title that they let slip last season, and have every chance of doing so. Manchester City are a hapless, bedraggled bunch. Bottom of the table, with a single point from eight matches, they will do well to avoid the relegation that was widely predicted for them this season before a ball was kicked.

In desperate circumstances, gallops humour offers one way of masking the pain. "What's the difference," Mancunians are asking, "between City and a cocktail stick?" "A cocktail stick has two points," the rumour in town this week is that Steve Davis is on his way to Maine Road. "City don't just need points, they need snookers."

For many, the appointment of Alan Ball as the City manager back in July was the biggest joke of all, and their laughter does not come with hindsight. A man with no obvious ability as a manager, despite spending 15 years trying to crack the code, was not likely to transform a club already marinating in the juices of its own inadequacy. Ball believes that it will take five years to make the place decent, but those are years that neither he nor Francis Lee, the City chairman and Ball's long-time mucker, have got. At the moment, they are both chained up in *la maison des chiens*.

Another heavy defeat this afternoon would be intolerable. Last season, United won 5-0 at Old Trafford and 3-0 at Maine Road, where the behaviour of the City supporters was vile, and was not denounced as strongly as it should have been. Everybody is on trial today, players and supporters, and another crushing reverse would expose Ball more than ever.

For a man who has spent 33 of his 50 years in the game, he is not handling that exposure very well. "Boo hoo, you're all perfectly beastly," is the gist of his pitch to journalists, as if he did not know the rules of the high-profile game

that he has chosen to play. The newspapers have, indeed, flayed his team, and with good cause. City have scored just two goals from open play so far this season, and had two men sent off for persistent fouling. If he had wanted a quiet life, Ball could have stayed in Southampton.

He is lonely, then, but not entirely without friends. In his diary of the 1994-95 season, Alex Ferguson, the United manager, confesses to a fondness for Ball's passionate approach to football. Well, passion is all very well up to a point, and Ferguson has made good use of it in his own glittering career. If it is not properly harnessed, however, it can be the most useless of qualities and, in football, it frequently acquires a false value. The sight of Ball, wearing his

'Steve Davis is on his way to Maine Road... City don't just need points, they need snookers'

rather, squeaking in that alto voice, may amuse some, but only in the way that a poor turn finds giggles at the end of a Blackpool pier.

It was at Blackpool that Ball's professional playing career began after he had been rejected as a teenager by Bolton Wanderers, whose Burnden Park ground is three miles from Farnworth, where Ball was born. "You're too small, son," Bill Ridding, the Bolton manager, told him. "Go and be a jockey." It was galling for Ball that a lad of his age, who was not much taller, had made his first division debut in the Bolton team as a 15-year-old: name of Lee.

Like many small men who have been belittled, Ball put his disappointment to considerable effect, assisted by Alan Sir, his father, who did the rounds of northern clubs as a mediocre manager. By the time that he was 25, Ball Jr had won World Cup and league championship medals, broken the British transfer record, appeared in an FA Cup Final and written (or

ghosted) his autobiography. If his subsequent career has seemed a bit of a let-down, nobody can deny that, in his red-haired, white-booted prime, he positively dazzled.

Ball left Blackpool after the 1966 World Cup for Everton, where he formed part of the celebrated midfield combination with Howard Kendall and Colin Harvey that did most to take the league championship to Goodison Park in 1970. By that summer, Ball, the youngest member of the 1966 World Cup-winning team, had developed from a bustling right winger into a considerable midfielder. He never became a great player, but he stood proudly among the ranks of the very good, first with Everton and subsequently with Arsenal, whom he joined in December 1971, spurning a late offer from the club that he now manages.

The Arsenal part of his story proved the least interesting. They were the double-winners when he joined them, but, despite reaching the FA Cup Final in 1972, they were a team in decline. His time there came to an end after Terry Neill was appointed manager in 1976. At the first training session, Neill stood behind the net, threw balls over the crossbar, and instructed the bemused players to shoot into the unguarded goal. Ball departed within the month.

His England career had fizzled out by then. He was only 30 in 1975 and, with Alan Hudson, he had helped England to beat West Germany, the world champions, 2-0 at Wembley. Don Revie, however, preferred to build the team around Gerry Francis, his young captain, who occupied the same midfield spaces. Ball left Highbury the next year and ended up in the second division with Southampton, where, give or take a flirtation with the North American Soccer League and Bristol Rovers, his career dissolved.

Given the kind of player that he was, and the heights that he achieved, Ball appeared a suitable candidate for management. In fact, as we know, the only member of the World Cup-winning side to make much of an impact as a manager has been Jack Charlton. Bobby Moore, Bobby Charlton



ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MARTIN

and Martin Peters failed and left the stage promptly. Ball failed at Blackpool when he returned there in 1980 and has failed repeatedly since.

It all goes to show what an imprecise science football management is. How does a man like Roy Hodgson end up in Milan at Internazionale? By making a little (in terms of professional expertise) go a long way. Ball did it all as a player and look where his talent has landed him in the second half of his career.

If Ferguson is accepted as the best manager in the country, having won domestic honours on both sides of the border and taken Aberdeen and Manchester United to success in Europe, Ball must surely be the worst to hold a senior rank. His CV includes taking Portsmouth from the first division to the second, Stoke City from the second to the third, Blackpool from the third to the fourth and Exeter City to the brink of non-league football. Relegation with Manchester City would complete

one of football's most remarkable full houses.

He could submit that he took Portsmouth into the first division (with an unlovely team) and kept Southampton up when he returned there two years ago. It is a thin record and convinces nobody. He was offered the job at City only because others were unavailable or did not want it. One cannot blame them when one considers the club's cavalier treatment of managers in the past.

The rehabilitation of Man-

chester City provides Ball with a more demanding test than anything that he has accomplished (or failed to), but do not hold your breath. It is 20 seasons since they won anything — the old League Cup under the gentle Tony Book — and they have been relegated twice in the intervening years.

So, if you catch a man in a rather whistling along to Old Trafford today, you need not guess the tune. "Good times and bad times, I've known them all and, my dear, I'm still here."

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ASTON VILLA v CHELSEA

A more serious test of Villa's potential than the table might suggest. Townsend is suspended and Staunton and McGrath had a physically and emotionally demanding game for Ireland against Latvia in midweek.

Away from home, Chelsea show the sense of adventure of an underdog. What does Ruud Geul do for them? Let us hope that Don Peters acts as a substitute for him. He might have anticipated lack of technique in England; lack of ambition is another matter.

LAST SEASON: Aston Villa 3 Chelsea 0
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, 0-0, —, —, 1-0, 2-2, 3-1, 1-3, 1-0, 3-0

ASTON VILLA (from): M. Bostwick, U. Eborh, P. McGee, G. Southgate, G. Charles, J. Taylor, M. Draper, A. Townsend, A. Wright, D. Yorke, S. Micklethwait, T. Johnson, N. Spink, G. Farfan.

CHELSEA (from): D. Kluzev, R. Geul, S. Clarke, A. Myers, E. Johnson, F. Sinclair, N. Spink, G. Piesch, D. Wile, C. Bailey, E. Newton, B. Stein, M. Hughes, J. Spencer, P. Furlong, K. Hitchcock.

BLACKBURN v SOUTHAMPTON

Lucky Blackburn. Last season's midweek might seem inappropriate now, but the fixtures are falling kindly for them, with Southampton following Coventry to Ewood Park. Unless, with Jack Walker watching admiringly, Matthew Le Tissier decides to make points all round, it should be Blackburn's third Premiership win of the season as they unravel Bohinen in midfield.

LAST SEASON: Blackburn 3 Southampton 2
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, 0-0, 2-0, 3-2

BLACKBURN (from): D. Bessant, B. Grabbecker, J. Dodd, F. Bani, J. Hendry, D. Batty, L. Bohinen, T. Sherwood, W. McKinley, C. Sutton, A. Shearer, M. Newell, S. Ripley, P. Warhurst, R. Mims, M. Holmes, M. Marler.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D. Bessant, B. Grabbecker, J. Dodd, F. Bani, J. Hendry, D. Batty, L. Bohinen, T. Sherwood, W. McKinley, C. Sutton, A. Shearer, M. Newell, S. Ripley, P. Warhurst, R. Mims, M. Holmes, M. Marler.

BOLTON v EVERTON

Can you have the proverbial all-pointer in October? It is a bit soon to start pressing the panic button at Goodison Park, but, if not at this point, Joe Royle needs a victory to turn things round. The loss of Ferguson for three months will not help, but the return of Arnould and Kanchelskis after injury should add a cutting edge to the attack. If a win is important for Everton, it is crucial for Bolton, whose survival will depend on them winning their home matches.

LAST SEASON: No fixture
10-YEAR RECORD: No fixture

How they line up

BOLTON WANDERERS (from): K. Bransigan, S. McInnes, J. Phillips, G. Bergerson, A. Stubbs, C. Fairclough, D. Lee, R. Sheehan, M. Patterson, A. Thompson, J. McGinley, F. De Freitas, S. Green, O. Coyle, G. Taggart.

EVERTON (from): M. Arnould, E. Barret, A. Hinchcliffe, D. Lindeboom, C. Short, J. Ebdon, A. Grant, J. Parkinson, A. Linney, G. Stuart, D. Arnould, A. Kanchelskis, P. Ridsdall, B. Home, S. Barlow, M. Jackson, G. Abbott.

LEEDS v ARSENAL

All the memories of last season's 1-0 win over Arsenal, this has been not so much a clash of the titans as a clean sheet of the mediocrity. Manchester United, against the odds, managed to win with them, Leeds can be one-dimensional.

Bruce Ritchie is trying to change Arsenal but, so far, with limited success. The League Cup with Birmingham and it's still 1-0 to the Arsenal. It's supposed to be the week. The thought of Yabosh against Adams is appealing.

LAST SEASON: Leeds United 1 Arsenal 1
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, 2-2, 2-2, 3-0, 2-1, 1-0

How they line up

LEEDS (from): D. Simpson, L. Dixon, A. Adams, S. Bould, N. Winstanley, M. P. Jones, M. Jackson, R. Parker, G. Hargreaves, B. Hargreaves, I. Wright, J. Hutton, S. Morrow, E. Moskaluk, V. Barmby.

LIVERPOOL v COVENTRY

Can lightning strike in the same place twice? It does not seem likely when one is talking about Coventry repeating their 3-2 victory at Anfield last season. Their defence collapsing against Forest and company with the same business as against Shearer in their last away match seems highly possible. The Midlands side are in free fall, and rolling the sleeves up and biting and fighting for a point in this situation is not a forte of Port Aderson's teams.

LAST SEASON: Liverpool 2 Coventry 3
10-YEAR RECORD: 5-0, 2-0, 4-0, 0-0, 0-1, 1-1, 1-0, 4-0, 1-0, 2-3

LIVERPOOL (from): D. James, R. Jones, J. Scales, N. Ruddock, P. Bebb, S. Harkness, S. McKennan, J. Raftery, J. Barnes, R. Fowler, S. Collymore, M. Wright, I. Rush, R. McKee, A. Warner, M. Thomas.

COVENTRY CITY (from): J. Flan, A. Pickering, R. Barrow, J. Williams, M. Hall, P. Taylor, M. Hales, K. Richardson, P. Cook, P. Ndlovu, J. Salako, C. Christie, J. Darby, D. Buss, N. Lamprey, J. Gould.

MANCHESTER UTD v MAN CITY

That derby does not follow form is one of football's great myths. In matches involving local rivals, good teams generally beat bad ones, but an upset could happen here — City are not as bad as their position suggests, they have enough good players to get out of trouble and they must get another point some time. United won on the injured Cantona and Kooze. They are talking to kill teams off at the moment, but they are capable of repeating their 5-0 win of last season.

LAST SEASON: Manchester United 5 Manchester City 0
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 2-0, —, —, 1-1, 1-0, 1-1, 2-1, 2-0, 5-0

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P. Schmeichel, D. Irwin, P. Parker, G. Neville, D. Beckham, E. Cantona, R. Keane, A. Cole, P. Neville, S. Bruce, P. Palster, P. Scholes, T. Cooke, N. Butt, L. Sharpe, R. Giggs, B. McClair.

MANCHESTER CITY (from): E. Innes, J. Foster, K. Curle, K. Symons, T. Preston, I. Bingham, S. Lomas, M. Brown, M. Barmby, L. U. Rober, G. Creevey, M. Cuth, N. Summerville, P. Beagrie, M. Morgan.

QPR v NEWCASTLE

Rangers are a better side than their position indicates, but they are fragile at home and whether they are good enough to extend Newcastle is another matter. Les Ferdinand will want to do well on his old stomping ground for the first time. His meeting with Danny McDermott could be physical — and perhaps decisive, although Newcastle have so many options that stopping Ferdinand is not the same as stopping Shearer and therefore Blackie.

LAST SEASON: Queens Park Rangers 3 Newcastle 0
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, 2-1, 1-1, 2-0, —, —, 1-2, 3-0

How they line up

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS (from): P. Schmeichel, D. Irwin, P. Parker, G. Neville, D. Beckham, E. Cantona, R. Keane, A. Cole, P. Neville, S. Bruce, P. Palster, P. Scholes, T. Cooke, N. Butt, L. Sharpe, R. Giggs, B. McClair.

NEWCASTLE (from): S. Hargreaves, W. Banton, J. Bannister, S. Hargreaves, D. Pascoe, K. Callaghan, R. Lee, L. Clark, D. Givola, R. Fox, L. Ferdinand, S. Selman, S. Wilson, P. Kitch, P. Smith.

WIMBLEDON v WEST HAM

Are Sky trying to change the pattern of the nation and drive people out of the house in search of entertainment on a Monday? Gary Lineker says no, but Wimbledon are best watched on TV, but on West Ham's stadium in the last more attractive site. Perhaps the derby atmosphere can exist at Selhurst Park — will help. The boys' Championship might be a better bet.

LAST SEASON: Wimbledon 1 West Ham United 1
10-YEAR RECORD: —, 0-1, 1-1, 0-1, —, —, 2-2, 1-0

How they line up

WIMBLEDON (from): P. Heald, K. Carrington, A. Young, S. Parsons, A. Thom, C. Perry, A. Brown, V. Jones, R. Eadie, D. Langan, S. Atkinson, R. Hackett, A. Clarke, J. Goodwin, P. Fear, M. Hackett, A. Arley.

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L. Middleton, L. Sealey, T. Brasher, J. Dicks, S. Potts, M. Preece, D. Williams, I. Bannister, J. Monaghan, A. Gosses, O. Hutchinson, A. Martin, R. Slater, J. Davis, S. Langan.

TOTTENHAM v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

The personnel continue to change, but Forest still play and look the same. They are tight, well-organized and dangerous on the break, a good away side, as they proved with their comfortable victory in this fixture last season. They will rise Bohinen, but with Gerrard set to make a claim for a permanent place in his stead, perhaps not that much. A difficult game for Tottenham, who have begun to put their poor start behind them.

LAST SEASON: Tottenham Hotspur 1 Nottingham Forest 4
10-YEAR RECORD: 0-3, 2-0, 1-1, 1-2, 2-3, 1-1, 1-2, 2-1, 1-4

TOTTENHAM (from): M. Bostwick, U. Eborh, P. McGee, G. Southgate, G. Charles, J. Taylor, M. Draper, A. Townsend, A. Wright, D. Yorke, S. Micklethwait, T. Johnson, N. Spink, G. Farfan.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M. Crookley, D. Lytle, C. Cooper, S. Christie, S. Preece, S. Stone, L. Schum, C. Barlow, A. Wain, J. Lee, B. Ray, S. Gerrard, A. Hargreaves, S. Howe, A. Slater.

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LAST SEASON: Manchester United 5 Manchester City 0
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 2-0, —, —, 1-1, 1-0, 1-1, 2-1, 2-0, 5-0

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P. Schmeichel, D. Irwin, P. Parker, G. Neville, D. Beckham, E. Cantona, R. Keane, A. Cole, P. Neville, S. Bruce, P. Palster, P. Scholes, T. Cooke, N. Butt, L. Sharpe, R. Giggs, B. McClair.

MANCHESTER CITY (from): E. Innes, J. Foster, K. Curle, K. Symons, T. Preston, I. Bingham, S. Lomas, M. Brown, M. Barmby, L. U. Rober, G. Creevey, M. Cuth, N. Summerville, P. Beagrie, M. Morgan.

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LAST SEASON: Queens Park Rangers 3 Newcastle 0
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, 2-1, 1-1, 2-0, —, —, 1-2, 3-0

How they line up

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10-YEAR RECORD: —, 0-1, 1-1, 0-1, —, —, 2-2, 1-0

How they line up

WIMBLEDON (from): P. Heald, K. Carrington, A. Young, S. Parsons, A. Thom, C. Perry, A. Brown, V. Jones, R. Eadie, D. Langan, S. Atkinson, R. Hackett, A. Clarke, J. Goodwin, P. Fear, M. Hackett, A. Arley.

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L. Middleton, L. Sealey, T. Brasher, J. Dicks, S. Potts, M. Preece, D. Williams, I. Bannister, J. Monaghan, A. Gosses, O. Hutchinson, A. Martin, R. Slater, J. Davis, S. Langan.

SHEFFIELD WED v MIDDLESBROUGH

Will Wednesday be any more fired up for this match than they were in the Yorkshire derby against Leeds United two weeks ago? The presence of the television cameras should provide an incentive, but they looked like relegation candidates last season. They will rise, but Middlebrough are the opposite: bright, purposeful and determined, although, pending the arrival of Juninho, a bit one dimensional, despite Barmby's class. What will the Brazilian make of the energetic and typically English Jamie Potocki?

LAST SEASON: No fixture
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, 1-0, —, 2-0, —, 2-3, —, —

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): C. Pressman, I. Nolan, P. Atherton, D. Walker, A. Pearce, M. Pennington, C. Waddie, G. Hyde, M. Duggan, D. Hunt, M. Bright, J. Swindell, L. Ericson, G. Whittington, O. Donohue.

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G. Walsh, N. Cox, C. Morris, A. Vickers, N. Pearson, D. Whyte, N. Barmby, J. Potocki, J. A. Fortoit, R. Mustoe, C. Hignett, J. Hendrie.

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WEST HAM UNITED (from): L. Middleton, L. Sealey, T. Brasher, J. Dicks, S. Potts, M. Preece, D. Williams, I. Bannister, J. Monaghan, A. Gosses, O. Hutchinson, A. Martin, R. Slater, J. Davis, S. Langan.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	8	21	+13	WLWWW
2 Aston Villa	8	17	+7	WOWDW
3 Manchester Utd	8	17	+6	WWWDW
4 Liverpool	8	16	+8	WLWWD
5 Leeds	8	16	+5	DLWW
6 Arsenal	8	15	+5	DWWW
7 Middlesbrough	8	15	+5	DDWW
8 Nottingham Forest	8	14	+3	DDWW
9 Tottenham	8	14	+3	DDWW
10 Chelsea	8	12	+2	WWWD
11 Wimbledon	8	10	-3	DDWW
12 QPR	8	9	-5	LLWW
13 Sheffield Wed	8	8	-3	DDWL
14 Blackburn	8	7	-3	DLWL
15 Everton	8	7	-4	WLWL
16 West Ham	8	6	-4	DLLW
17 Southampton	8	6	-7	DDWL
18 Coventry	8	2	-10	DDLL
19 Bolton	8	2	-10	DDLL
20 Manchester City	8	1	-11	LLLL

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today
10.00pm BBC 1 Match of the Day Highlights
Tomorrow
2.30pm Sky Sports 2 Match of the Day Highlights
5.00pm BBC 1 Match of the Day Highlights
Monday
5.00pm BBC 1 Match of the Day Highlights

Croatia and Germany set example with skill and entertainment

Travel riches show up English poverty

BY GIVING a wide berth to Oslo — where, sterility was passed off as virtue, boredom as art — a traveller could educate and enrich his football knowledge around Europe last week.

My journey began in Croatia, at the foot of a mountain on the Adriatic coast where, last Saturday, young players exhibited the skills of passing from defensive positions.

Here, Ante Buselic, an old white-haired trainer, who has coached for 40 years from Yugoslavia to the emerging African and Arabic worlds, spoke of his job.

"My friend," the professor said, "in Africa, you build houses out of mud and grass. Here, we are rich in stones. In the forest, you would build out of wood. So, you create from what you have... this I call a coach."

The next day, in Split, Croatia and Italy created the 1-1 draw from their different heritages. More important, there was an outpouring of nationalism, a match, bravely shaped by Zvonimir Boban from central midfield. He looked inspired, and he was playing a role foreign to that of AC Milan, his club, insists on.

A captain in every sense of the word, though, he simply would not allow effort to flag while 40,000 people were roaring his team on, people who know that sport can never be a substitute for war, but can be a mighty release.

Then, in Cardiff on Wednesday, there was another contest stirring in its athleticism, effort ranged against the creative mind. The Welsh, so depleted and so brave, were made to run three metres to every one by the Germans.

Although Germany acknowledged that these islands can still produce the odd thoroughbred, was a player they would covet, he was not the catalyst to victory. He could not be.

Germany has, from the former East Germany, a performer who can turn swiftly from sweeper to playmaker with great aplomb. Matthias Sammer is the proof, in his



ROB HUGHES
Weekend View

long and elegant stride, that a team that wants to create anything has also to play with risk. The great sides in history, the Brazilians, the Hungarians and others, have always demonstrated that without risk, there is — again that word — sterility.

There has been plenty of recent evidence of this. Sammer had demised Rangers a couple of weeks earlier. Viktor Onopko, the captain of Russia, playing similarly with freedom from defence, had destroyed Blackburn Rovers. While Onopko was creating Russia's first goal and scoring the second against Greece on Wednesday, Sammer was the difference between Germany and Wales.

'Wales were made to run three metres to one by the Germans'

Of course, there has to be order. Germany have their workers, Steffen Freund and Dietz Bliks, but, apart from Sammer, Thomas Hässler has the freedom of the field. Yet, as they say, "Bos, Yago, Germany's trainer, was disparaged as 'the insurance man' because of the bland work ethic of his team."

The conversion that has overtaken Yago, the need to win competitive matches rather than draw friendly ones, might one day happen for Terry Venables.

So to Thursday, to dinner with Dr Mong Joon Chung. He, a leading South Korean industrialist, a politician who has held the post of Minister of Defence, is relatively new to the game and its passion. Now

a Fifa vice-president, seconded from his business to trying to persuade the world to grant his country the 2002 World Cup, Chung observed: "You know, this is such a contagious, such an important game. I never realised its influence and its potential wealth could be so big." Bigger even than his own company, Hyundai.

From the politician, to the kindergarten. Last night, Gary Lineker presented on BBC2 a 45-minute programme that should be compulsory viewing for anyone in England with a care for the game.

Dreaming of Ajax was a thorough investigation of the way that Europe's most impressive club rears its teams from children in Amsterdam. The education, from seven upwards, involves a strategy known as TIPS — technique, intelligence, personality, speed.

Note the order. Speed all too often runs away with the priorities. In England, Lineker's film showed boys learning with small foam balls, to stimulate feeling in the feet.

They take dance classes to induce rhythm, balance and movement off either foot. They are quite ruthlessly pruned from the training system if they either are in the classroom or on the training fields. Among the witnesses to the foreign enlightenment were Venables, Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooking, who concludes with the warning: "If we don't put the grass roots in junior soccer right, into the next century, all our home countries will be struggling to qualify for the major tournaments."

The struggle began some time ago and, perhaps, travel now broadens the British perspective on the game that Great Britain exported.



Sammer, whose sense of adventure is making Germany attractive to watch

Millichip gives Venables vote of confidence

THE future of Terry Venables as England coach should be secured by Christmas. He has convinced Sir Bert Millichip, the chairman of the Football Association, that he is the man to take England to the 1998 World Cup finals.

However, Venables faces more talks with Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, before an extension to his contract is settled. Neither side is in a hurry to do that with both still digesting the comments of a hostile press after the 0-0 draw in Norway.

They are unlikely to discuss the situation again until after the game against Switzerland at Wembley next month, when a more impressive

performance should enable Venables to go into the new year, and the last five months of the build-up to the European championship with a new, enhanced contract.

Millichip, who will retire after the European championship finals, still has the decisive say in who will shape the national side through the World Cup qualifying campaign, that starts in September 1996. He has given Venables, a man whose appointment he originally resisted, a vote of confidence. "I want him to stay until after the 1998 World Cup," Millichip said. "That is our intention. We want him to be successful." However, Kelly, in an

FA statement, said: "Terry Venables has not been offered a new contract at this moment, but discussions will take place in the near future."

Fifa has extended the entry deadline for the 1998 World Cup, for which there has already been a record entry of 169. The world governing body said yesterday that late entries would be considered, especially from Africa, where poor communications may have delayed postal or fax submissions. The draw for the preliminary round will be made in Paris on December 12, with 32 teams qualifying for the finals, eight more than for the 1994 finals in the United States.

Blackburn Rovers yesterday completed the signings of Billy McKinlay, from Dundee United, and Lars Bohinen, from Nottingham Forest, for £1.75 million and £750,000 respectively. Both are included in the champions' squad for the FA Carling Premiership match at home to Southampton today.

Derby County are set to recoup a third of their £1.5 million outlay on Igor Stimac by selling John Harkes. Harkes, 28, old will return home at the end of the season after the first division club agreed a £500,000 deal with the United States Soccer Federation. Harkes cost Derby £800,000 from Sheffield Wednesday two years ago.

Willison carries off record in Portugal

RICKY WILLISON, the former English Amateur golf champion, broke the course record at Quinta do Peru, near Lisbon, with a second round 64, eight under par, to take a one-stroke lead in the UAP Grand Finale tournament.

Willison, 36, who turned professional four years ago, carried his own clubs while recording nine birdies to go to the top of the field with a total of 137 after two rounds.

The tournament is the final PGA European Challenge Tour event of 1995, and more important to the slightly-built Londoner than the £10,000 first prize is the chance to regain his player's card for the main European Tour next season.

The top ten earn places, and Willison is ninth after moving up from 36th by winning the Tunisian Open last week. "I'm trying not to think about what might or might not happen to me here this weekend," Willison, a former Walker Cup player, said. "I think I am just lucky to have a job like this when a lot of my friends back at home are out of work."

Scores, page 42

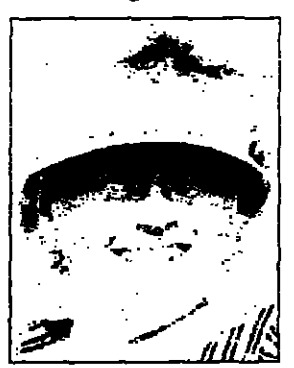
Wood's home draw

TENNIS: Clare Wood, the British No 1, has been granted a wild-card entry to the Brighton International tournament that starts on Tuesday, along with Mary Joe Fernandez, of the United States, the world No 12. Wood lives in Brighton and was a quarter-finalist two years ago.

Colin Beecher lost to Robbie Koenig, of South Africa, in the final at the LTA autumn satellite tournament in Birmingham when he was beaten 4-6, 7-6, 6-4, but the Kent-based player's performance this week was still good enough to give him the overall circuit title.

Davies hits putting hitch

GOLF: Laura Davies, right, finished the second round of the world championship of women's golf at Cheju, South Korea, in a tie for the lead with Betsy King and Pat Bradley, of United States pair, after a disappointing 71. "It was a bad score because I played better than that," Davies said after losing her clear lead with a bogey on the 18th. "Putting was a problem. I just couldn't get it to the hole."



Nicholas misses out

GOLF: Alison Nicholas was within inches of collecting a £24,000 car for a hole in one on her way to a round of 71, two under par, on the opening day of the Nestlé French Open at St Andreol yesterday. Her six-iron tee shot at the short 13th pulled up just six inches from the hole. Nicholas, of Great Britain, who has won twice on the LPGA Tour in America this year, finished the day in joint-second place, just one stroke behind Lotta Sorenstam, of Sweden, who made three birdies in her closing five holes.

Ivanisevic fails

TENNIS: Goran Ivanisevic, the defending champion, went out in the quarter-finals of the Seiko tournament in Tokyo yesterday, losing 7-6, 7-6 to Hendrik Dreckmann, of Germany. Ivanisevic, the No 2 seed from Croatia, appeared to be still suffering from the effects of a recent bout of fever in succumbing to an opponent ranked 107 places beneath him at 114. Michael Chang, of the United States, the beaten finalist in 1994, reached the semi-finals with a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Alexander Volkov, of Russia.

Swedes' summer bid

OLYMPIC GAMES: After Sweden's nine unsuccessful attempts to secure the Winter Olympics, Stockholm, the capital, will try for the summer Games of 2004, officials said yesterday. Stockholm last hosted the summer Games in 1912, and also served as the equestrian venue for the 1956 Games that were staged in Melbourne, Australia. Stockholm proposes a budget of 12 billion kronor (about £1 billion). The biggest cost will involve construction of a new 80,000-seat Olympic stadium.

Doctor's arresting development

"DEAR Simon," I read as I scurried through my post on return from a trip. "knowing how you like to be kept abreast of the latest sports medical research, I thought you might be interested to hear about my recent work on sports bras."

This riveting first paragraph was from Dr Colin Crosby, of the Garden Hospital, Hendon. Realising that I cannot possibly top this, I shall do no more than continue to quote from the good doctor's letter:

"In order to test the efficiency or otherwise of the products available, we have been studying the breast movement of a series of volunteers with varying bust sizes — whilst running on a treadmill, initially topless and then with various sports bras. Reflectors are placed at strategic points on the torso and the process is videotaped and computer analysed to find the most effective method of support."

"The work is still in progress, and we are getting some good results, but I have a problem about terminology. NEF (Nipple Excursion Factor) has been suggested, but is a little impersonal: BMA and BMJ (Breast Movement and Analogue) Movement — Aerobic Jogging) are more appropriate, but I think they have already been taken."

"I would emphasise, that this is quite serious work in that it should encourage women to exercise comfortably and not be put off by unnecessary and painful breast movement."

New strip shock

Here is a story about which we can be prudent with a perfectly clean conscience. An Italian football team has just



SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

changed its name to Team Punto Rosso Sexy Shop. The reason is a sponsorship deal with... well, a sex shop, obviously enough. The team, from Mestre, across the lagoon from Venice, played their first game for their new sponsor on Monday after posing with a porn actress. "I've got lots of ideas for the future," the owner of the shop said. "We hope to have porn girls on the touchline cheering the boys on."

La-la Cantona

A treat for true music-lovers: the return of Eric Cantona, that master of the martial and poetic arts, is celebrated by the release of a CD/cassette containing 13 songs about the great philosopher. Tracks include: Ooh-Ah, Eric Cantona; Have You Heard About Eric; Eric the King; Be Like Eric — Do The Frog; Eric, Please Don't Go; Cantona Superstar; Monsieur Genius; Eric Cantona — What A Bloody Star; The Grand Old King Eric; and The Twelve Days of King Eric. From: Exotica Records, 49 Belvoir Road, London, SE22 0QY.

Grounds for sale

Perhaps the ultimate purchase for the man who already has every anorak that he could possibly desire: yes, a model of your team's home ground for only £44.99. You can buy Highbury, Anfield, Swindon Park (as if it were not bad enough, actually going

there), Goodison Park, Upton Park and Elland Road; more are promised. From: European Sports, 1 Marvin Street, Liverpool, L6 1NF.

Achilles' deal

Yet more product news. A crazy jogger (tautology), inevitably American, discovered, at the age of 65, that his jogging days were done. Yes, Alvaro Gallegos was forced to yield to anno domini, ankle and heel injuries. It hurt too much, but now he is running three or four times a day. He has invented a shoe with wings. When he runs, his feet do not touch the ground. The idea is pure comic book, he runs on coiled springs, 1½ in long, incorporated into his shoes. Off he boings and now he plans to market them. He aims to sell 30,000 pairs in the first year. True, they



weigh rather a lot. "They'll be the Model T Ford of running shoes," Gallegos claimed.

Secure future

Athletes? Overpaid? Surely not. Though Hristo Stoichkov, the Bulgarian footballer, is to open a bank. He has joined forces with Emil Khazov, a former deputy managing director of the Bulgarian state bank, to form a new bank called the National.

Day of two halves

Romario, the Brazil footballer, is a hero. Last week, he saved a girl from drowning. Tercia Figueredo, 19, had been carried away on a windsurfer after the mast had broken, drifting helplessly for three-quarters of an hour. Passing in a motor-boat, Romario plunged into strong currents to save her. "Romario!" she said. "Nobody will believe my story!" The same day, Flamengo, Romario's team, lost 3-1 to Botafogo. What is the Portuguese for "funny old game?"

Tougher times

Footballers involved in bribery and match-fixing in Malaysia were sentenced to a spot of exile last April. Fifty players were restricted to virtual house arrest in remote villages for indefinite periods, but now, news has leaked out that some of the banished players have not been having too bad a time of it. They have been seen in local restaurants and cinemas. A re-think has been implemented: the players are to be sent to even more remote and desolate villages. Blackburn awaits their arrival hourly. I am sorry, I really did not mean to say that...

Initiative in schools to revive football

By Peter Ball

THE performance of England's footballers in Norway, like many an England performance before it, has provoked spirited debate and some soul-searching about the state of the game. This time, it has also provoked a move to solve the problems where they begin.

Yesterday, Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooking joined forces with Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Ireland manager, Bryan Flynn and Gordon Strachan, under the auspices of Adidas, to promote the British Schools Football Foundation, in an attempt to re-vamp the way that football is taught in schools. "It is time to step in and kick off a far-reaching total football revolution in schools," Bob McCulloch, the managing director of Adidas (UK), said yesterday.

Graham Morgan, of the Association of Football Coaches and Trainers, and an Adidas employee, added: "The problems with the English game are at grass-roots level, but the consequence of that is that the solution has to be found in the grass roots, too." Morgan speaks with authority, having started the first — very successful — football development scheme at Bradford 15 years ago. His aim now is to do for British football what he did for the game in Bradford.

"We want to get the kids playing little games and getting lots of touches," Morgan said, "because, if you haven't got a first touch to die for at eight, you are always going to be awkward on the ball."

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 14 1995

SIMON BARNES 47

STUCK FOR WORDS
IN THE FOREFRONT
OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Indomitable Langer overcomes fatigue to earn semi-final encounter with champion

Matchless Els burns up Burma Road

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

NBODY could match Ernie Els in the Toyota World Match Play Championship last year and, if the defending champion continues in the rare vein of form that he showed yesterday, he will be hard to beat this year, too.

He swept past Lee Janzen and into the semi-finals with a display of golf that was ominous for Bernhard Langer, his opponent today, and worrisome for those who were privileged to behold it.

Els played golf that was as lethal as 100 degree proof gin, going round the formidable West Course, which is known as the Burma Road for its length and severity, in 64 in the morning and lifting his foot only slightly from the throttle in the afternoon.

He played as if his eye was in, which in itself was a surprise because, by rights, it should have been anything but. He has competed in just one tournament in the past five weeks.

Whereas Colin Montgomerie plays well when he plays a lot, Els seems to be of another persuasion. In April, he missed the cut in the Masters, took time off and then won the

wasn't much I could do against such great golf. I just kept thinking, 'don't press, just try and hit a good shot and win a hole whenever you can.' But every time I thought I would have a chance to get some momentum, he would do something."

This was best demonstrated on the 31st, where Janzen, who had just holed a good putt to get back to four down, was nearer the hole and thinking of a birdie. Instead, Els ran in a monstrous putt, from more than 50 feet, and with it he went five up for the sixth time.

Langer, Els's opponent today, is protesting that it is a long time since he last played as much golf as he has these past few weeks. "I am very tired," he said after defeating Nick Price on the 36th green. "In fact, I am exhausted."

He did not look it as he slowly and purposefully clawed his way past Price, who led by two holes after the 7th and 13th. They lunched all square and then Langer's indomitability became evident and his play improved. Like Els, Price plays well after a lay-off, but, unlike Els, Price did not play well enough to win this time.

At a time when poetry is in the minds of so many, it would take a Seamus Heaney to do justice to the scene yesterday. As Montgomerie and Elkington walked down the manicured slope to their drives on the 7th, a jet rose silently above the treetops. It was the only intrusion into a pastoral tableau of rare beauty and the International Management Group, the event's organisers, ought to commission Arthur Weaver, the well-known artist, to do one painting of Wentworth and give it to the competitors as a memento.

Yet there was a hint of murder being committed elsewhere. Costantino Rocca was right up on Ben Crenshaw with 16 holes remaining and a kindly boxing referee would have wanted to step in and end it there. Crenshaw had arrived late in this country after a sudden visit to his doctor and he was playing as if his mind was elsewhere.

"Costantino is a fine golfer," Crenshaw said after his spirited recovery was eventually suppressed, 3 and 2. "He hits his irons beautifully, he has a firm base and he is a good putter. It will be a good match between him and Steve [Elkington]."

For the first time since 1985, there is no Briton in the semi-finals. Els looks menacing after a tip from Price to alter the position of the ball at the address and to shorten his backswing very slightly. "He has got so much in reserve that people are going to have a tough time beating him," Price said.

"We might find we have a new matchplay king of the world out here with Ernie."



Langer puts everything into a drive during his last-hole victory over Price at Wentworth yesterday. Els awaits him in the semi-finals today. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Elkington breathes easily in beating Montgomerie

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

IT WAS a perfect day for Steve Elkington at Wentworth yesterday. Clear blue sky, lane summer temperatures, a course made for his uncomplicated style of play and a hard-fought 2 and 1 victory over Colin Montgomerie, that hung in the balance until late afternoon. Above all, for a man whose career has been hampered from its earliest stages by, of all things for a golfer, an allergy to grass, the pollen count was low. Almost as low as his scoring.

At some times of the year, the Australian runs his life by the pollen count, particularly when Augusta is in full bloom for the Masters and Elkington has to pump himself full of anti-histamine to ward off the sneezing fits, sore eyes and bronchial infection that herald an attack. Several times, he has had to withdraw from tournaments before the start, once, in the middle of an event in Phoenix. "I just couldn't go outside," he said.

A recent operation on a bone spur in his nose has eased, but not eradicated, the problem. "It's like having a four-lane

rather than a single lane highway in my nose," Elkington said, "but I still get attacks and I still have to take allergy shots twice a week. Autumn is the best time of the year for me." Even so, nasal spray is an essential part of Elkington's golfing baggage. Montgomerie is developing an allergy as well. To Elkington, who pipped him to the US PGA title in a play-off at the Riviera Club in Los Angeles earlier in the year and who proved just too good for him again yesterday, The Australian's all-round solidi-

ty, allied to the odd moment of brilliance — a chip in from 30 feet at the 31st effectively ended the Scot's desperate resistance — brought out an attack of the grump. Sometimes, when he roars at himself, the crowd, anyone within sight, you wonder if Montgomerie believes that the ball will one day fall into the hole through sheer fright. Sometimes, it seems as if that is his only chance of holding anything.

Time and again yesterday, Montgomerie plodded hither and thither over the green,

surveying a putt like he was trying to postpone the moment he had to hit it, only to see the ball slip by. Invariably, he then put his hand on his hips in disgust, collected the ball, tried the same putt again when everyone had moved off and holed it. He is, for sure, the only golfer whose shoulders slump in anticipation of, rather than as a response to, missing ... and if Montgomerie could conquer his aversion to the greens ...

Anyone looking at the solitary, silent attitudes of the two players through their 35 holes yesterday would have been forgiven for thinking that there was something personal between them. There is, but it has nothing to do with the 30-foot putt that gave the Australian his first major victory, at the US PGA, and Montgomerie his second major play-off defeat. After that narrow win, Elkington sent the Scot a fax, saying that it was just a matter of time before victory in a major would come his way, too. Elkington was not sure how his message would be received, but thought, in that wonderfully flamboyant Australian way,

that he would send it anyway. Montgomerie was actually cheered and touched by the sentiments.

There was barely a word exchanged yesterday, though, as both players sensed that this was going to be a battle to the line. The pair conjured 17 birdies and an eagle on the West Course, their struggles as well as the combined excellence encapsulated by the 10th in the afternoon, when Elkington's six-iron to six inches was matched by Montgomerie's seven-iron to three feet. "I thought then this is going right down to the end," Elkington said.

That it finished a hole early was because of Elkington's

delightful chip at the 13th that put him two up and, when both had splashed out of the greenside bunker two holes later, to his rock solid putt and Montgomerie's miss from five feet. Three down with three to play was too much even for a fighter of Montgomerie's calibre. It did not help his equilibrium that they were stuck in the slow lane behind Bernhard Langer for most of the afternoon.

While Montgomerie paced about waiting to hit, Elkington enjoyed the sunshine and, for once, the fresh air. "Everything I did, he did that bit extra," Montgomerie said. "I just ran into the wrong man at the wrong time."



Elkington drives at the 2nd during his victory yesterday

England unleash Offiah

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WINS are foregone conclusions for England and Australia today, but the impetus of the two favourites in the rugby league World Cup still needs to be maintained in blowing away the cannon fodder of South Africa and Fiji, respectively.

In unleashing England's greyhound from the slips, Martin Offiah is expected to outpace the South African hares. The Rhinos, as their nickname suggests, are about head down and bore, rather than speed. After the thigh strain that kept his main strike weapon out of the first two matches in group one, Phil Larder, the England coach, said: "Now he's 100 per cent fit, we'd hope to give Martin a lot of running chances."

Most cherished of Offiah's many try records is the one he set when scoring five against France for Great Britain, at Headingley in 1991. "Obviously, I like getting as many as possible, but it's about putting on a strong performance," he said. "No one is guaranteed a place."

South Africa, who have conceded 26 tries to Australia and Fiji, really should have been spared these humiliations and an inevitable third at Headingley, tonight. The emerging nations' tournament next week is about their level.

England, in a highly disciplined atmosphere, are in no mood to let the momentum, created by the defeats of Australia and Fiji, fall away. "Come Monday, we want to be as confident as we are at this moment, and that confidence not only comes from winning, but producing good performances," Larder said.

The intensity that he seeks must come from within, as South Africa are patently no match. England v Carlisle is about the size of the task, which leaves the goal of Shaun Edwards, the England captain, to set records and prevent South Africa from scoring. They managed briefly to interrupt the rip tide of Australia's 86-6 international match

world record score against them last Tuesday. England's highly beatable best was 60-13, against Wales in 1978.

Paul Cook, 19, the Leeds full back, who will kick the goals on his full international debut on his home patch, is one of several changes as Robinson, Newlove, Betts, Jackson and Farrell, who played in both previous matches, are rested. Mick Cassidy's formidable versatility will be employed for the first time at hooker, with Bobbie Goulding on the substitutes' bench to be tried out in the same unfamiliar position, or to rotate with Edwards at scrum half.

There are opportunities. Larder said, for those in the 17 tonight to play their way into the semi-final at Old Trafford next Saturday, but, although he could be swayed here and there, because of the lack of resistance expected from South Africa, he is unlikely to be shifted far in his thinking.

It is a formality, but Australia still have to qualify at Huddersfield for the last four at the expense of Fiji, who are awaiting fitness tests on two backs — Waisale Solovata and Noa Niyakakalou — and on Samuel Marayawa, the forward. Gary Larson, Paul Harragon's replacement, moves into the second row for the final group game.

Ireland opt for Kidd as coach

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish Rugby Football Union, foiled in its attempt to employ Bob Dwyer, an Australian, as the new national coach, has appointed instead Murray Kidd, a New Zealander, to the post. He becomes the first overseas coach to be appointed by Ireland and the union's first paid employee.

Negotiations with Dwyer, the former Australia coach, could not be completed before he left for Argentina on Wednesday. The Ireland selectors were keen to end the uncertainty surrounding the appointment and so opted for Kidd, 41, who takes over immediately from Gerry Murphy.

Kidd knows the Irish club scene well. A centre or wing with Taranaki, Manawatu and King Country in New Zealand, he then spent three years coaching Garryowen, the Irish League runners-up in 1991, champions in 1992 and Munster Senior Cup winners in 1993. He also coached Sunday's Well to the second-division title.

Trouble on cards, page 43

Hoddle adds to his European expertise

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GLENN HODDLE, the Chelsea manager, finally succeeded in broadening his side's European perspective yesterday when he signed Dan Petrescu, the Romania international footballer, from Sheffield Wednesday for £2.3 million.

After his summer foray into the global transfer market to secure the services of Ruud Gullit, the highly-influential former Holland international, from Sampdoria, Hoddle only had to travel up the M1 to add the versatility of Petrescu to his progressive-minded side.

Although deployed largely defensively in his 40 appearances for Wednesday, he is at

his best when pushing forward, as evidenced by his eye-catching performances in the 1994 World Cup.

Hoddle, forced to pay £1 million more than it cost Trevor Francis to lure Petrescu, 27, from Genoa last summer, had been tracking the player since the summer, and the manager's patience will have to extend for at least two more weeks until the Department of Employment grants a new work permit.

David Pleat, Francis's successor at Hillsborough, was unperturbed at the loss of a player who upset him by making it clear, through an agent, that he wanted to move.

"Chelsea have got their man and we have got our price," Pleat said. "We feel we can cope with the loss of Dan. Chelsea have been pursuing him since the summer and although everything was above board, it created an unhealthy situation. His agent was looking to change a contract that was only 15 or 16 months old. Dan is a smooth, attractive player and good luck to him. From my point of view, the deal has put money in my pot."



Petrescu: versatile

Ball's tall order, page 46
Rob Hughes, page 47

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BOOKS



The Times new atlas: centenary edition offer
Page 8

PLUS: Matthew Parris reviews Littlejohn, page 7

PROPERTY



How to rent a desirable royal home in town or country
Page 9

PLUS: Island houses for sale, page 9

TRAVEL



African safaris — and a taste of Zululand
Pages 18, 19

PLUS: World travel competition, page 20

OUTDOORS



Best of British apples in a city orchard
Page 12

PLUS: Paul Heiney's smock shock, page 12

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 14 1995

NEXT WEEK SHE WILL BE THE WORLD'S OLDEST PERSON EVER



Though her heart has beaten more than four and a quarter billion times, the world's oldest human has not run out of puff. Still wearing a little rouge, Madame Jeanne Calment officially gave up smoking aged 117, but resumed with a quiet puff on her 118th birthday.

On Tuesday, allowing for 29 leap days and defying all odds, she will become the human with the longest proven life of anyone in history: 120 years and 238 days.

"I have an enormous will to live and a good appetite, especially for sweets," she says. Until recently, she drank one glass of port

before lunch and another before dinner every evening. Her aim, though unable to see and almost deaf, is "to continue my life and for my body to hold out".

Jeanne Louise Calment was born at Arles, on the estuary of the Rhône in Provence, on February 21, 1875, the same year as Ravel, who died at the respectable age of 62 in 1937, after a productive working life. But Mme Calment has lived to see the expiration of Ravel's copyright 50 years later in 1987, when she turned 112.

After a long engagement, because she "wanted to live a little", she married in 1896. After 44 years, her husband died in 1940. She

By Norris McWhirter

has been a widow for 55 years. Happily, her financial circumstances were improved by a local lawyer, André-François Raffray who, when she was 90 in 1965, unwittingly entered into an annuity contract for FF30,000, payable at FF2,500 a month, to make him the owner of her flat when she died. So far the contract has cost him more than FF900,000 over 30 years, and he has paid to his indestructible client more than three times the value of her flat, instead of the fraction he had planned. No American lawyer would

have been so easily caught out, because life assurance companies in the United States would have investigated Mme Calment's exceptionally high Total Immediate Ancestry Longevity, or TIAL factor. Her father lived to 94 and her mother to 86. According to the longevity expert Jean-Marc Robine, of the French National Institute for Medical Research, many of Mme Calment's remoter ancestors in the 18th and even the 17th century, lived to far greater ages than was the norm.

"By chance, she was endowed with an extraordinary genetic make-up," M Robine says. Despite being in a wheelchair after

breaking a leg and an elbow in 1990, she has, he says, "...extraordinary resistance to sickness, stress and depression", and "...she is not a health fanatic".

Mme Calment says that she is "...interested in everything, but not really passionate about anything". A member of a long-established bourgeois family, Mme Calment has never worked, in the sense of being an economically active earner.

The Maison du Lac retirement home, where she lives, has already been renamed after her. Her doctor, Victor Lebre, has

Continued on page 3, col 1

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2 CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? The Times critics select the best entertainment

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

GOTTERDAMMERUNG: A positive creative tension set up between Bernard Haitink's masterly, broadly drawn conducting and the imaginative anarchy of the Richard Jones/Nigel Lowery staging has been the distinguishing feature of the first three segments of the Royal Opera's new *Ring* production. Jones ignores more than a century of tradition, and goes back to the text to inspire his theatrical fancy. It is a hugely refreshing undertaking. Now the cycle is completed, and the cast headed by Deborah Polaski (who has been giving her best Brünnhilde to date under Haitink's guidance), Siegfried Jerusalem and Kurt Rydl. Absolutely unmissable.

IDOMENE: The Welsh National Opera's exceptional revival of Mozart's *Idomeneo* is equally unmissable, if only for Sir Charles Mackerras's conducting and Anthony Rolfe Johnson's world-class account of the title role. There is also exceptional singing from Christine Weidinger and newcomer Toby Spence, and young Carin Wyn-Davies is taking over as Ilia. A musical feast.

Apollon Theatre, George St, Oxford (01865-24544), Wed 18, 7.15pm. £

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

VOLPONE: Matthew Warchus's fine revival of Ben Jonson's great satire on greed transports you to a Venice where sinister, hooded figures glide through shadowy, shifting passages, and the magnifico of the title lolls beneath a skeleton holding an hourglass. Some actors have brought more savagery to Volpone's conman than Michael Gambon does here, but none has exuded such restless energy, such robust gleam in making mischief. His games and tricks come across as manic attempts to defy a bleak world.

Oliver, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252), Evenings: Wed 18 to Sat 21, 7.15pm. Matinee: Sat 21, 2pm. Continues in repertoire.

THE GLASS MENAGERIE: It is hard to understand why Sam Mendes's *Donmar* — that pace-maker in the decaying heart of the West End — should be imperilled when he is staging revivals as strong as this within its steel and chrome. Zoë Wanamaker brings impressive feeling and dignity to Tennessee Williams's Amanda Wingfield, a Southern matriarch fighting to keep her family afloat — and her fragile daughter same — in the grey St Louis of the 1940s.

Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732), Evenings: Tues to Sat, 8pm. Matinees: Thurs, Sat and Sun, 4pm.

CLASSIC

Richard Morrison

TCHAIKOVSKY IN BULK: Whether the world needs more concert cycles of Tchaikovsky symphonies is questionable. But if it does, there cannot be an orchestra better qualified to serve them up than the magnificent St Petersburg Philharmonic, whose members probably learnt to play this music before they could walk. Their conductor, Yuri Temirkanov, is no stranger to musical exaggeration, but he can produce thrilling results. The cycle, already heard in Glasgow, now comes to London.

Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), No 1 and No 4 Sun, 4pm; No 2 and No 5 Tues, 7.30pm; No 3 and No 6 Wed, 7.30pm.



Claire Skinner as Laura Wingfield and Mark Dexter as The Gentleman Caller in Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie* at the Donmar. See Theatre, below.

Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), No 1 and No 4 Sun, 4pm; No 2 and No 5 Tues, 7.30pm; No 3 and No 6 Wed, 7.30pm.

DAGMAR PECKOVA: "Pungent and extraordinarily pure of focus" was *The Times*'s verdict on the Czech mezzo-soprano when she sang a brief solo in a London concert two years ago. Now this striking singer — who has since gone on to take leading operatic roles in Paris, Milan and Salzburg — is given a whole recital to herself as part of the Wigmore Hall's "New Europe" series. She will perform Mahler, Janáček and Wagner, as well as contemporary Czech music: it could be an evening of high vocal excitement.

Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, London W1 (0171-935 2141), Fri, 7.30pm

DANCE

John Percival

PHOENIX DANCE COMPANY: The jazz musician, Orphy Robinson, joins Phoenix's director Margaret Morris and choreographer Gary Lambert in a new work. Also on this programme is a creation by company member Chantal Donaldson. A revival of Philip Taylor's *Haunted Passages*, set to music by Benjamin Britten, completes the bill.

Sadler's Wells Theatre, London EC1 (0171-713 6000), Tues to Thur, 8pm; Sat 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; then touring.

PALE HORSE: Derek Deane's first full evening creation for English National Ballet has its premiere in Southampton before a national tour. In addition to the familiar characters taken from Lewis Carroll, he

promises a flying house (designs are by Sue Blane; special effects by an illusionist, Paul Kieve). Carl Davies has compiled a score from both familiar and less familiar music by Tchaikovsky, Londoners must wait until next March to see the work at the Coliseum, unless they decide to make a journey out of town.

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (01703 711811), Thurs to Sat, 2.30pm.



Alice in Wonderland: Marta Barahona in the title role

Matinees: Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm; then at Empire, Liverpool (0151-709 1555), Oct 24 to 25. Palace, Manchester (0161-242 2503), Oct 30 to Nov 4; Grand, Leeds (0113-245 9351), Nov 20 and 21.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

BUDDY DEFRANCO AND KENNY BAKER: Just as Benny Goodman was the king of clarinet in the swing era, so Buddy DeFranco is regarded as the consummate technician in the bop

sphere. On a rare British tour he co-leads a quintet with his comrade of many years, the vibes player Terry Gibbs.

The recent re-emergence, with new personnel, of Kenny Baker's *DeFranco*, one of the most stylish of 1950s studio hands, was cause for unfettered rejoicing. The marriage of powerhouse arrangements and artful soloists of the calibre of Don Lusher and Alan Barnes makes each concert a celebration of charismatic swing.

DeFranco: Dunoon Jazz Festival, Argyll (information 01369 705202) tonight, 8pm; Renouf Hotel, Rochford (01702 541334) tomorrow, from 7.30pm; The Vortex, Stoke Newington Church St (0171-254 6516) Mon 16, 9pm; Bull's Head, Barnes Bridge, London SW16 (0181-876 5241) Tue 17, 8.30pm; Gardner Arts Centre, Brighton (01273 658861) Wed 18, 7.45pm; University College School, Farnham, London NW3 (0171-435 2215) Thur 19, 7.45pm; Pizza Express, Dean St, London W1 (0171-439 8722) Sat 21, 9pm.

VIENNA ART ORCHESTRA: As it approaches its 20th anniversary, Matthias Rüegg's ensemble plays little attention to traditional categories, and unfurls its own densely textured versions of pieces by Erik Satie, Scott Joplin and Anthony Braxton. The new release, *European Songbook*, again veers to the classics, with Rüegg's settings derived from themes by Verdi, Wagner and Schubert. After an absence of some ten years the orchestra returns to London with *Nine Immortal Non-Evergrees*, which is a tribute to Eric Dolphy.

Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Tue 17, 8.30pm.

David Sinclair

ALANIS MORISSETTE: Still only 21, the singer has become an overnight sensation in America where her album, *Jagged Little Pill*, is No 1 in the chart. On stage Morissette is a passionate performer with a voice the flavour of fresh



Morissette: a voice the flavour of fresh lemons

lemons, and a band whose sound alternates between folk-rock and grunge-lite. Her single, *Hand in My Pocket*, is released on Monday, and this is the moment to catch a major star in the making.

Garage, Glasgow (0141-332 1120), Oct 20; Manchester Museum (0161-275 2930), Oct 22; Shepherd's Bush Empire (0181-740 7474), Oct 23.

debut, *Bring 'em All In*, will stand as one of the most commanding folk albums of the year.

Redcar Bowl (01642 49227), Oct 14; Pavilion, Glasgow (0141-332 1846), Oct 15; Octagon, Sheffield (0115 9483456), Oct 16; Warwick University Arts Centre (01203 524524), Oct 18; Corn Exchange, Cambridge (01223 357851), Oct 19; Leicester University (0116 255 7929), Oct 20; Free Trade Hall, Manchester (0161-834 712), Oct 22; Pyramid Centre, Portsmouth (01705 358608), Oct 23; St David's Hall, Cardiff (01222 878444), Oct 24; Birmingham Town Hall (0121 605 6666), Oct 26; Shepherd's Bush Empire, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Oct 28, 29.

John Russell Taylor

ITALIAN MAIOLICA: One of the most colourful forms of ceramic, maiolica fitted perfectly the tastes of Victorian collectors, and has perhaps slipped from fashion since. The Fitzwilliam Museum's collection of 550 pieces, among the finest in the world, was surprisingly not begun until 1904, but the museum has made up for lost time. The exhibition shows half the collection, dealt with chronologically, and includes amazingly rich pieces of *istoriato* (story-telling) decoration from 1490-1521, as well as more commercial later works.

Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge (01223 332900), Tues to Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2.15-5pm. Until Jan 7.

PLEASE TOUCH THE OBJECTS: The blind have a constant, and understandable, beef with museums in that "Do Not Touch" is almost always the rule. It is not only blind visitors who would like to touch objects; many sculptors

regret that conservation departments are horrified at the idea that sculptures might be touched. This show aims to correct all that, at least in a small way. Some 40 objects have been selected by the Southampton Society for the Blind from the Tudor House Museum. They include a Victorian sugar-lump crusher, a braille machine, and a variety of archaeological finds, from a mammoth's tooth to medieval pottery.

Tudor House Museum, Bugle Street, Southampton (01703 32513), Tues to Fri, 10am-12, 1pm-5pm; Sat, 10am-12, 1pm-4pm; Sun, 2pm-5pm, until the end of December.

Geoff Brown

THE NEON BIBLE (15): Any admirer of Terence Davies's films will be keen to see what this austere chronicler of his Liverpool childhood makes of someone else's youth across the Atlantic. On the surface, little has changed. There are the same careful symmetrical images, and similar plot ingredients: a violent father, nurturing women, and suffocating religion. But the emotional impact is missing. Adapting John Kennedy Toole's teenage novel about a 1940s childhood in the Bible Belt, Davies puts in a great deal of effort, yet we never share the characters' pain.

Lamiere (0171-836 0691)

THE WILD BUNCH (18): William Holden rides again, leading his outlaws in one last big theft while Robert Ryan, hired gun for the railroad company, plots to shoot them down. Sam Peckinpah's 1969 Western was once a milestone in movie violence, though the writhing, slow-motion bodies seem nursery stuff compared with today's bloodbaths.

The film's strengths are unaltered: superbly orchestrated action pieces (such as the train hijacking), and a biting portrait of ageing outlaws facing extinction.

MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279); Warner (0171-437 4343)

Richard Cork

CEZANNE: In his first full retrospective for decades, the Post-Impressionist is celebrated in Paris. His reputation, as the prophet of modern art, is awesome and almost oppressive. But the Cézanne revealed here is a more human artist, nourished by contradictions. His early romanticism, powered by violent emotions, erupts in the first room. Although he later arrived at an "impetuous" form of classicism, the fiercest feelings never left him. The show's climax is provided by the monumental *Bathers*. Painted in 1906, the year of his death, it is astonishingly forward-looking and at the same time traditional.

Grand Palais, av. du Général Eisenhower, Paris (00331 4413171) until Jan 7.

STEPHEN COX: Until now, the parkland at Kew Gardens has scarcely been used as a setting for contemporary sculpture. But the advent of Stephen Cox's carvings proves that Kew provides an ideal backdrop. All carved of granite, they nevertheless vary a great deal in impact. The influence of Indian sculpture is pronounced, and Cox has liberally splashed most blocks with oil. Its smell and staining play a sensual part in the carvings' drama — not least in a large form resting near the Conservatory entrance like a primeval boulder, heavy with suggestions of ritualised sacrifice.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (0181-332 9322)

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
House full, returns only Some seats available Seats at all prices

COMMUNICATING DOGS: Alan Ayckmore's ingenious one-act play, a comedy about a dog who talks, is a witty and subtle comedy. **Old Red Lion, St John's St, EC1 (0171-837 7816), Mon-Sat, 8pm.**

DEAD FUNNY: Brenda Long, Kevin May and Sam Kelly in Tony Johnston's comedy about a man who comes and goes in the blink of an eye. **Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8638), Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm.**

FUNNY MONEY: Ray Cooney as a man who picks up the wrong briefcase and finds himself richer by £25,000 in used £50 notes. The ensuing havoc. **Haymarket, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8638), Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm.**

GASLIGHT: As plans solidify, this is a production that is a production. **Haymarket, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8638), Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm.**

HOBSON'S CHOICE: Leo McKern in the role of Harold Brighouse's character, a man who picks up the wrong briefcase and finds himself richer by £25,000 in used £50 notes. **Haymarket, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8638), Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm.**

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Three Tall Women. **Old Red Lion, St John's St, EC1 (0171-837 7816), Mon-Sat, 8pm.**

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INSIDE STORY

3

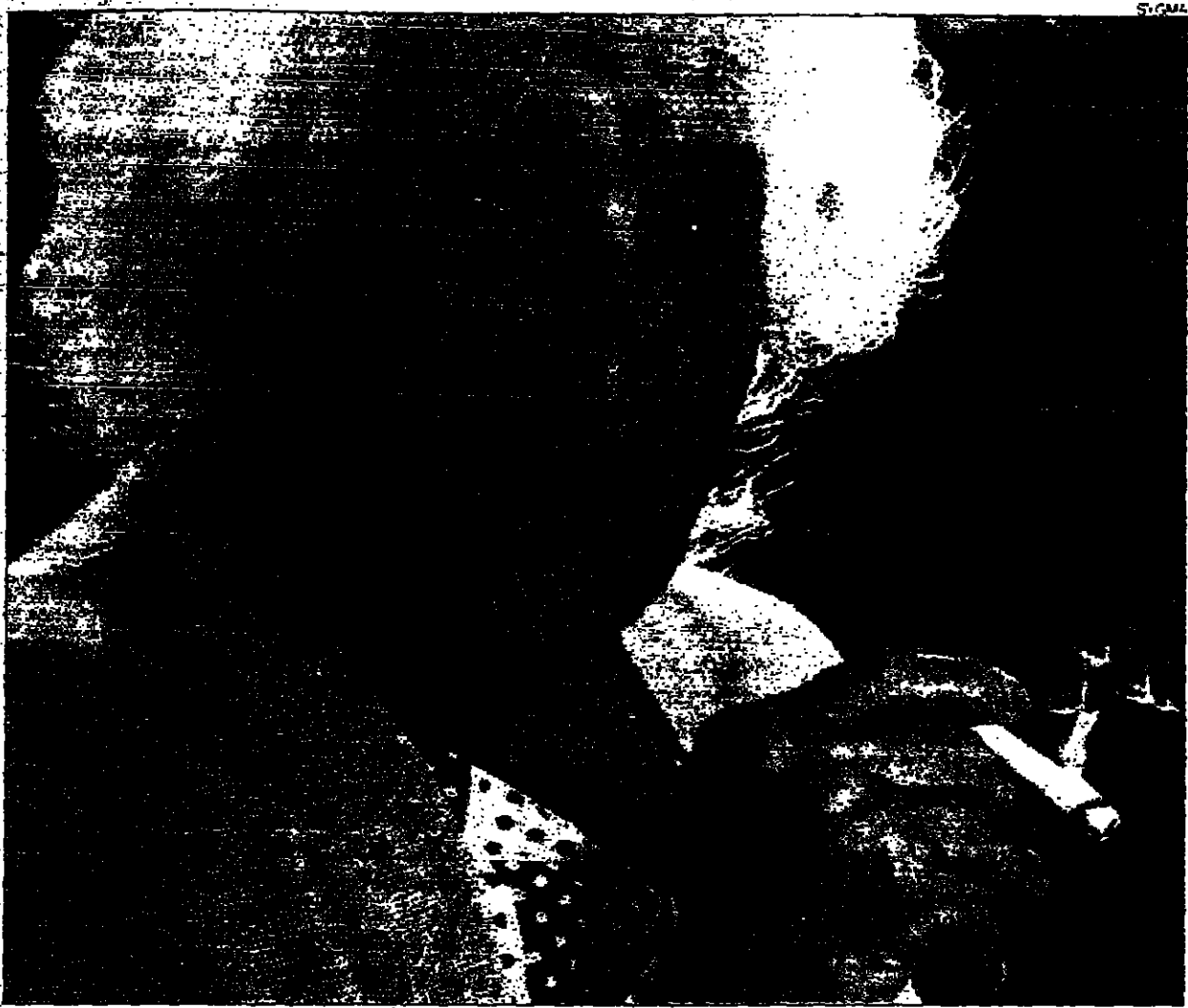
Asked how she viewed the future, Madame Calment, aged 120, replied: 'Very short'

Continued from page 1

Gerontologists have long been uneasy that the world's only other proven 120-year-old, Shigeo Kawanishi (1865-1986) of Japan, was a man. Any supreme champion of this most competitive of all records - staying alive - should by rights have been female. In Britain, for example, there are about 270 male centenarians to about 2,100 females.

Kawanishi lived his entire life on the remote Japanese island of Tokuno-shima, through 12 national censuses, to an age of 120 years and 237 days. He was the last survivor of the pre-Meiji era. He died at 12.15pm GMT on, curiously, February 21, 1986 - Mme Calment's 111th birthday.

As with Mme Calment's smoking and port-drinking, so Kawanishi had irritated the medical profession. He took up smoking at 70, in 1933, and later developed a taste for a firewater distilled from sugar known as *shochu*. When aged only 116, he poured out an egg cup of the 'deadly' spirit for me with a rock-steady hand. He had a cataract in one eye but with his good eye was able to detect that, with taste buds burning, I flinched. To the annoyance of his great niece,



Above: Van Gogh's painting of his house at Arles, where he was a neighbour of Mme Calment. She remembers him as being 'ugly as sin, bad tempered and smelling of alcohol'

Left: Jeanne Calment, pictured at Arles three years ago at 117 - when it was said she had officially given up smoking

he leant forward and downed my ration in one gulp. Asked the inevitable question, to what did he attribute his long life, he gave a reply that covered the waterfront: 'God, Buddha and the sun.' He was dismissive about the only two females on the island who had made the 100 mark, saying: 'They didn't even get to 101.'

His wife died aged at what he doubtless regarded as a pathetic 90. His only daughter died at 20 and his only son in infancy.

Kawanishi had never slept in a bed in his life, lying, instead, on a thin mat on the floor, with a wooden block as a pillow. His doctor said that he had 'good blood pressure for a man of his age'. His handshake was curiously hot and his white hair was growing black again in places. His main interest in life, apart from *shochu*, was televised sumo wrestling. The Ryukyu islands, where he lived, are in

the typhoon belt and have virtually no atmospheric pollution. Laterally, Kawanishi lived in a double-glazed bungalow, without beds or chairs, thus ensuring that any accidental visitor would not stay long. He was much venerated, purely on account of his immense age.

Unlike Mme Calment, Kawanishi had to work - hard. In fact, he had the longest working career on record: 98 years. He started, aged seven, goading an ox which drove a rotary sugar grinding mill, and then graduated to becoming a sugar farmer. He was excused military service in 1889 because the Imperial Government required sugar supplies more urgently than conscripts. He retired at the age of 105.

There are few subjects so beset and obscured by vanity, deceit, falsehood and deliberate fraud than extremes of longevity. Exaggerated claims

are generally made, however, on behalf of, rather than by the very aged. The effective and proper requirement for authenticated ages are the intervals between the birth and death certificates, preferably supported by regular regional censuses.

Surprisingly, few countries have reliable methods of registering births. It is said that, even in America, fewer than 20 per cent of octogenarians can produce reliable evidence of their date of birth.

The most notorious fraud was when President Eisenhower ordered flags throughout the nation to be lowered to 'half staff' in September 1959 to mark the passing of the 'last survivor' of the Civil War of 1860-1864, Walter W. Williams, of Texas. When asked on what authority they had paid this 117-year-old a veteran's pension, the Texas Veter-

ans' Administration said it paid on the authority of the Federal Veterans' Administration, which also paid Mr Williams a pension. When challenged, the Federal people said it paid the pension because Texas did.

There was a fortunate time lapse before it was shown conclusively that, despite total lack of cooperation from these official agencies, Trooper (honorary five-star General) Williams was not 117 but 104, and could not have been aged more than nine when the Civil War ended. None the less, he received a burial with full military honours and was even accorded a fourth leader in *The Times*.

Ross Eckler, an American, has made it a hobby to disprove ridiculously exaggerated claims emanating from his own country. He has no shortage of targets because, in every postwar year, Federal or State agencies have solemnly listed senior citizens with ages alleged to be more than 120. Using stricter standards, Mr Eckler disproved each one of them, except the genuine Delia Felkins, who died aged 113 years, 214 days in 1928, and was not surpassed until early 1979 by Kawanishi.

The American all-time champion is believed to be Miss Carrie White (1874-1991), who celebrated her 116th birthday on November 18, 1990. Statisticians maintain that even the present world population of 5.76 billion people should be able to accommodate only 2.7 115 year olds. As for 120 year olds, they are statistical non-starters. They worry that there is not a single recorded genuine example of anyone dying at 117, 118 or 119.

In the recent past, the most newsworthy reports have emanated from such Shangri-Las as Abkhazskaya in the Georgia region of the former USSR. Claims for people in the second half of their second century, and even into the first half of their third century, are an insult to human credulity but, none the less, such reports have regularly and lucratively occurred. They were published uncritically by the Press, presumably because they were supplied by news

agencies and were regarded as 'good copy'.

The prize for the most outrageous claim to longevity must go to a man named Li Chung Yen. On May 5, 1933, a Chinese news agency announced his death and added that he had been born in 1690 - making him 253 years old.

A former Soviet gerontologist, expelled from his own country, was able to interpret some of these aberrations, adding the comment that if the ages of some Russians grew any greater they were in danger of proving an embarrassing advertisement for Tsarism. Referring to the allegedly 168-year-old 'Baba' Mislina (1805-1973), Dr Znores Medvedev stated: 'He [Stalin] liked the idea that other Georgians lived to be 100 or more. Local officials tried hard to find more and more cases for Stalin. The whole phenomenon looks like a falsification.'

There can be little doubt that some of the extraordinary ages claimed by the southern Soviet states were effected by untruths made to evade military service. Dr Medvedev regarded 100 as the oldest proven age from the USSR.

Mme Calment, when asked how she viewed the future, replied simply: 'Very short.' She is not only the sole survivor of Imperial France but also, probably, the last eyewitness to the building of the Eiffel Tower. She saw it when her father took her to Paris in 1889. The following year, she recalls, Vincent van Gogh came to her mother's shop in Arles, and she remembers him being 'ugly as sin, bad tempered and smelling of alcohol'.

When Mme Calment dies it will, indeed, be the snapping of a unique link with the past.

The former Registrar-General, Roy Thatcher, is Britain's leading expert on extreme longevity. He relates his most encouraging finding, the answer to which could win a free pint in any of Britain's 70,000 pubs: How long do you have to live before the odds of getting to your next birthday are worse than 50-50? The answer is encouraging: 104.

● The author is the founder editor of the Guinness Book of Records.



Ravel: born in 1875 like Mme Calment

Ruth Gledhill joins the Conservative Party conference in worship

A chance to sing for the blues



AFTER John Major had been welcomed to the stage with a standing ovation from more than 3,000 delegates, the conference chairman, David Kelly, invited us to sing the national anthem.

We were at the religious service which each year marks the beginning of the Conservative Party conference. The Conservatives are unique in opening their conference with an act of worship. The Labour Party adjourns its NEC meeting each year on the Sunday before conference to allow their leader to attend church, and Christians in the Liberal Democrats assemble for an informal act of worship on the last day of their conference.

The unseasonal summery weather in Blackpool did nothing to lighten the occasion, the mood made more solemn than usual by the death, the previous night of Lord Home of the Hirsel, the former Conservative Prime Minister. Mr Kelly asked us to remain standing for a minute's silence to remember Lord Home, 'a great Britain, a man of enormous courtesy, decency and honour, a statesman and a patriot'.

The three clergy for the interdenominational service were a few seats from the Prime Minister in front of a blue backdrop on which the words: 'Our Nation's Future, Conservative' were spelled out. Nearby, on the stage, were John Gummer, William Waldegrave and other Conservative luminaries. The Rev Chris

Entwistle, the local Anglican vicar who arranged the service, welcomed us 'on behalf of the worshipping communities here in Blackpool'. He invited the conference, an assembly of six representatives from more than 650 associations nationwide, to 'call to mind God's presence'.

Mr Entwistle continued with a pas-

AT YOUR SERVICE

sage from Psalm 46 - 'Be still and know that I am God' - before reading the Anglican collect for morning prayer. 'We thank you that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day,' he said. 'Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger.'

We were seated on padded chairs on a wood-block floor laid in 1934 in a venue used for ballroom dance championships as well as annual party conferences.

★ A one to five star guide to the service ★

□ ARRANGED AND CONDUCTED BY: The Rev Chris Entwistle, Vicar of St Paul's, North Shore.

□ ARCHITECTURE: In the ornate Empress Ballroom of the Blackpool Winter Gardens, designed by Mangnall and Littlewoods and first opened to the public in 1896. ★★★★★

□ SERMON: None, but service followed by addresses from various politicians including John Gummer.

□ MUSIC: Sadly no Wurlitzer, but freelance organist Roly Haworth led us in worship on a smaller but effective Technics electronic organ. ★★

□ LITURGY: Similar to Anglican morning prayer, without confession. ★★

□ AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Buy fish and chips plus milky tea in any one of surrounding venues, and visit the Blackpool illuminations.

□ SPIRITUAL HIGH: Righteous. ★★★★★

Lights flashed from cameras around the hall, while blue and white spotlights bathed the politicians on the stage. The conference stood as one for our first hymn, *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation*, the gusto of the singing an indication that most of those present were regular churchgoers.

During the following week, many of the party's Christians would take part in fringe meetings and prayer breakfasts organised by the Conservative Christian Fellowship, a group whose aims include combating a contemporary misunderstanding of Conservatism. The Fellowship argues that the party is 'a moral enterprise if it is anything', and says that too many people associate Conservatives with 'worship of the free-market economy'.

As if to drum this message home, the Rev Lawrence Jones, President of the Blackpool Free Church Federal Council, read the tale of the Good Samaritan.

Our prayers were led by a Roman Catholic priest, Fr John Hopkinson SJ, of the Church of the Sacred Heart. He asked for God's blessing on the conference, prayed for the Queen and the Prime Minister, the Government, the administration and MPs. He asked God to bless them during the week and afterwards 'with the gifts of courage and magnanimity to work together, without fear or favour, for justice, peace and prosperity for all'.

Service at the Conservative Party conference, the Winter Gardens, Church Street, Blackpool, Lancs FW1 1HW (01253 293002)



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NEW ON VIDEO: Anthony Hopkins in the wild; Burt Lancaster preaching hellfire; Robert Altman on the catwalk; *Star Wars* complete

LEGENDS OF THE FALL

Columbia TriStar, 15, 1994
PLUMP up the cushions: this family saga set early in the century takes its time as characters age from the cradle to the grave, and modern turmoil encroaches on the Montana wilderness. The photography suits an art-gallery wall, but the characters belong to a dime novel. Sparks fly once conniving Aidan Quinn squares off against his unnamed brother, Brad Pitt; for the rest, we have nature to gaze at, plus Anthony Hopkins overacting. Available to rent.

ELMER GANTY

Warner Home Video, PG, 1960
VOLCANIC Burt Lancaster bubbles with fire and brimstone in Richard Brooks's memorable version of the Sinclair Lewis novel about a charlatan preacher in the Midwest. Meticulously mounted with due regard for the period (the 1920s), and striking support from Jean Simmons as the dubious evangelist who takes him under her wing.

A FEAST AT MIDNIGHT

Entertainment, PG, 1994
JUSTIN HARDY'S gauche yet oddly endearing British film about a new boy at a boarding school who finds his feet by establishing a secret feasting society. Ten-year-old Freddie Findlay has the bland innocence of Mark Lester in *Oliver!*; luckily, he spares us the face-pulling of other young troupers in the cast. Robert Hardy oozes honey as the benign headmaster, but most eyes will be on Christopher Lee as the ogreish Latin teacher whose tasteless shrivel at the thought of tofu lasagne. He did play Dracula, after all. A rental release.

PRE-A-PORTER

Buena Vista, 18, 1994
LIGHTNING struck twice when Robert Altman followed *The Players* with *Short Cuts*. But when the veteran maverick cast his withering gaze on the fashion world and its hangers-on, the third bolt

never materialised. The background of Paris's fashion-show week may be authentic, but the stars stay caricatures, never people, while insights and good jokes are in short supply. On the plus side, Marcello Mastroianni and Sophia Loren echo their past pleasantly, and the costumes boggle the eyes. A rental release.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

BBC Video, U, 1995
THEY do not give you time to breathe: the serial has not yet finished its television transmission, and already it comes packaged for video, on two tapes available from Monday. The social comedy of Jane Austen's novel makes perfect costume drama for the BBC, although Alison Steadman's shrieking Mrs Bennet casts a blot on an otherwise carefully polished production.

THE SCOUNDREL

Arrow, 15, 1970
JEAN-PAUL RAPPENEAU'S second film shows the director some distance away from the superb control he brought to *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Jean-Paul Belmondo is the easy-going star, an adventurer seeking to divorce his wife, played by Marlene Jobert, in the second year of the French Revolution (hence the film's original title, *Les Mariés de l'an deux*). As costume romps go, this does not romp much. The English soundtrack is a further drawback.

THE STAR WARS TRILOGY

FoxVideo, U
STAR WARS. The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi are no strangers to video, though they may be if Fox sticks to its bizarre promise of deleting the titles "forever" after January. Their demise is celebrated with the release of THX digitally mastered prints, promising sharper images, richer colour and more dynamic sound. The tapes also come with interview material with George Lucas, the films' progenitor.

GEOFF BROWN

Big sky, big country: Anthony Hopkins and Brad Pitt star in *Legends of the Fall*, an expansive family saga set in the Montana wilderness in the early years of the century

OPERA

John Higgins

WAGNER

Schwarz/Begley/Schreier/Hale/Kapellmann/Cleveland Orchestra/Von Dohnányi Decca 443 690-2 (2 CDs)***
AS Bernard Haitink brings the Covent Garden Ring to a close with *Götterdämmerung* tonight, so Decca and Christoph von Dohnányi begin their cycle from Cleveland, Ohio, with *Rheingold*. Cleveland can hardly claim to be a top operatic town, but there is that



Wagner: into the infernal world

orchestra, which under Dohnányi has become one of the most powerful in America. Certainly it dominates this studio recording of *Rheingold*.

It sounds magnificent, even at times fearsome. Dohnányi is not one for a comfortable musical ride. He lets the spikiness and the neuroses of the music show through, while still applying the silken touch when required. The *Götterdämmerung* with thunderous steps. The descent into Niebelheim is a journey down to an infernal world: who could bear to be a Niebelung with all that din?

This power play could overwhelm the singers, especially with no stage performances behind them. But for the most part they are well able to stand up to Dohnányi. Franz-Josef Kapellmann's Alberich is outstanding, not least in his ability to show every nasty facet of the "hairy, humpbacked horror" (Wellgunde's words). Lechery is followed by tyranny and then by an old-fashioned crime before Wotan.

When Alberich is finally beaten, Kapellmann delivers his curse with telling fury.

The three tenors are vividly contrasted. Kim Begley's Loge is quick-witted and spiteful, his barbed darts, always finely articulated, searing like the tongues of flame he commands. Peter Schreier brings all the expertise of long years of Lieder singing to turn Mime into a poor, put-upon creature. Thomas Sunnegardh is a lightweight Froh. The Giants are light, the ladies better than that. Hanna Schwarz is a determined Fricka, even though nobody listens to her, while Nancy Gustafson and Elena Zaremba shine in their appearances as Freia and Erda respectively.

The major question mark hangs over Robert Hale's Wotan. He lacks neither power nor presence but the interpretation has its dull patches. There is not the richness of James Morris's bass baritone nor the authority of John Tomlinson, to cite two of his recent rivals in the role. Perhaps he will show to better effect in *Walküre*, which is to come, and raise that into the three-star category.

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

JANACEK

Choral Works Netherlands Chamber Choir/Schönberg Ensemble Philips 442 534-2***
COMMUNAL folk-singing may have been on the wane in Janáček's Moravia, but choral societies were flourishing as an important focus of growing national consciousness. Choral writing forms the largest part of Janáček's output, yet it is still the least known and least recorded. The Netherlands Chamber Choir under Reinbert de Leeuw starts to put matters right in this compellingly varied, imaginatively performed programme.

From the earliest, hushed *Wild Duck*, to the Tagore parable, *The Wandering Madman*, composed when Janáček was at the height of his powers, there is an extraordinary virtuosity of textural and rhythmic drama on display here. Henk Vels is an eloquent tenor soloist, and Marja Bon an equally expressive pianist in the *Elegy on the Death of his Daughter*, while

NEW ON CD: Magnificent *Rheingold*; Janáček's folk roots; Al Grey's old jazz virtues; Fleetwood Mac past their time

the woodwind, ocarina and double-bass soloists of the Schönberg Ensemble relish every second of the *Riklada*, 19 irresistible nursery-rhyme miniatures.

JANACEK
Moravian Folk Poetry in Songs Pecková/Kusnjér/Lapsanský Supraphon 11 2214-2 232***
NEXT Friday, the Wigmore Hall hosts the solo recital debut of the Czech mezzo-soprano Dagmar Pecková; and her pungent voice, unusually pure and resilient of focus, can be heard on a valuable new two-disc set of Janáček's arrangement of folksongs from Moravia, Hukvaldy and Silesia.

Janáček was no romantic assimilationist: rather, like Bartók, his transcribing, editing and reworking of



Pecková: pure and resilient

the melodies and raw rhythms of human speech was a lifelong preoccupation. This recital is not only highly enjoyable but is a fascinating compendium of source material for the "speech tunes" which permeate every phrase of Janáček's greatest operas.

In Pecková's performance of *Cornocopia*, more than one prelude of *Kája* is to be heard; and her passionate *Fate (Osud)* is clearly prophetic of the eponymous short opera. Ivan Kusnjér, with his easy, resonant baritone, shares this long recital, contributing a plaintive reflection on Love, a tiny, nasal *Flier's Wedding*, and a lusty call to *Farmer's Annie*. The wonderfully spare piano accompaniments are touched in by Marián Lapsanský.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

GRIEG
Piano Concerto CHOPIN Piano Concerto No 1 Mustonen/San Francisco Symphony/Blomstedt Decca 444 518-2***

GRIEG
Piano Concerto MOORE Parodies Moore/Orchestra of St Lukes/Talmi EMI CDC 5 5536 2*

NOTHING the Finnish pianist Olli Mustonen does is run-of-the-mill, and his new recording of Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor is no exception. Every phrase of this old warhorse seems to have been thought afresh: a considerable achievement in a work so familiar. The danger is that in trying to say something new, an interpreter ends up merely sounding perverse. Mustonen is certainly idiosyncratic — witness his slightly mannered handling of the dotted figures when he announces the main material in the first movement. But it always makes musical sense, and there are many moments of real poetry.

Not all conductors would be able to accommodate such eccentricity, but Herbert Blomstedt, with the San Francisco Symphony, proves a sympathetic accompanist, contributing insights of his own. The coupling is an enjoyable performance of Chopin's E Minor Concerto.

Dudley Moore's recording may not be in quite the same league, but neither can it be dismissed out of hand. He gets round the notes with considerable accomplishment, and if there are moments when the execution is just a touch laboured, there are compensations in the form of eloquent musicality. The remainder of the disc is made up of a sequence of Moore's hilarious musical parodies of Chopin, Faure and Schubert among others, but most memorably the wicked one of Peter Pears singing a Britten song.

A more mainstream recommendation than either of these would be one of the most successful of the Royal Philharmonic Collection's budget-range discs: Ronan O'Hara with the RPO under James Judd (Tring TRP024).



Moore: eloquent musicality

Clive Davis

AL GREY
Centerpiece: Live at the Blue Note Telarc CD-8379***
WE PLACE so great an emphasis on innovation in jazz that the virtues of the old and the familiar are sometimes treated with scorn. Al Grey's club date, with a sextet featuring trumpeter Harry "Sweets" Edison and pianist Junior Mance, belongs to a category that we often take for granted.

In some respects, the repertoire is utterly predictable. At some point you can be sure that a Basie tribute will float into view, and you can be equally certain that when it arrives it will turn out to be *Lesser Leaps In*. Harry Edison can always be relied upon to deliver a mid-tempo number on muted horn that fades out over a simple figure, repeated at length; sooner or later the musicians will change gear for a bossa nova (in this case Barry Harris's *Nascimento*).

There may be nothing new under this particular sun, yet what matters is the sense of grace and elegance that the musicians bring to the task at hand. Edison, who

celebrated his eightieth birthday this week, has been sketching those epigrammatic phrases for half a century or more.

A mere 70, Grey still extracts a remarkable degree of colour from the trombone; his forceful use of the plunger mute adds the rasp of a rowdy blues shouter. *Bewitched* provides a vehicle for his playful ballad playing but even more arresting is his dexterity on the boppish opener, *Dix Related*.

David Sinclair

FLEETWOOD MAC

Time Warner Bros 9362-45920*
THERE are lots of smiles on the faces of the various members of Fleetwood Mac adorning the inside cover of *Time*. But what a bunch of sad old buffers this lot have turned into since their last album, *Behind the Mask*, was released five years ago.

Sirivie Nicks has gone her own way, along with guitarist Rick Vito. Thus, the core line-up of Mick Fleetwood, John McVie and Christine McVie is now augmented by guitarist Billy Burnette (retained from *Behind the Mask*), Dave Mason (the original guitarist in Traffic) and singer Bekka Bramlett (daughter of Bonnie Bramlett of Delaney and Bonnie).

Everyone does a bit of writing and singing, except John McVie, who wisely sticks to playing his bass. But despite the all-hands-on-deck policy, the ship goes down faster than a Big Mac and chips. Christine McVie emerges with her dignity least sullied. There is a family seductive quality to her composition *Hollywood (Some Other Kind of Town)*, and she does bring a cool poise to the uptempo *Nights in Estoril*, a song in the classic, easy-listening Fleetwood Mac mould of the 1970s.

But the others seem to be working to a John-the-dots soft-rock formula. Bramlett's and Burnette's most palatable offering is a gossamer-thin acoustic confection called *Dreamin' the Dream*. But more typical is a string of songs with Mason at the helm, such as *I Wonder Why* and *Blow by Blow*, that are rife with the most stupendous musical and lyrical clichés. The album closes, not a moment

too soon, with *These Strange Times*, an embarrassing spoken-word epic written and narrated by Fleetwood. A soft-rock experience of such bland inconsequence that even quite limited exposure can induce severe torpor. *Time* should come with a health warning.

David Sinclair

ASH

Angel Interceptor Infectious INFECT27***
A GUITAR trio from Downpatrick, Co Down, Ash is Ireland's answer to the new wave of Britpop bands such as Sleeper and Supergrass. Ridiculously young — singer Tim Wheeler and bass player Mark Hamilton received their A-level results only weeks before their last single, *Girl from Mars*, debuted at No 11 — they opt for a more full-blooded sound than their British contemporaries on the latest single, *Angel Interceptor*.

With its uptempo, toe-tapping



Ash: full-blooded pop sound

tune borne aloft by a beefy blast of Les Paul guitar chords, it is a song that recalls the punky melodic overdrive of the Pixies. Using images of space travel as a metaphor for romantic elation ("I feel heaven in you") is not an entirely original conceit. But the simply-stated theme at the heart of the song — "It's good to know tomorrow you are coming home" — combines with the emotional uplift of the chorus to sweep all before it.

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GARDENING

5

Stephen Anderton delves into the smaller, subtler-shaded varieties of the much maligned gladioli

Star quality gladdies

Snakes must feel wonderful when they have just sloughed their skins. I had the same feeling recently when visiting the British Gladiolus Society's Northern Exhibition at Belsay Hall, Northumberland. I went rather expecting to hate it, and came away pleasantly surprised that late-season gladioli could have such delicate charm.

But the flowers have earned a bad name, made worse by the gladioli-flogging activities of Dame Edna Everage and pop star Morrissey. I was once an unwilling gladdie target — they land with a stunning thump. These are the big monster varieties which still appear in gladioli competitions in bright, deckchair colours.

However, there are smaller ones in the *primulinus* classes which present themselves far more cooperatively, and some which come in the subtlest shades.

Breeding gladioli was at its peak between the 1920s and 1940s when nurserymen, such as Urwins, were working hard to produce new varieties. The British Gladiolus Society was founded in 1926, and Nigel Coe, its secretary, says that in those early days many of the larger varieties looked more like the *primulinus* do now, less solidly arranged up the stem, and with a more lateral arrangement of the petals.

The *primulinus* types are now recognised by their whippy stem, flowers which mount the stem in ladder fashion — one to the right, one to the left, and an upper central portion of the flower which bends forward in a hood, making a gap between the side petals. Hence the open, butterfly-like appearance. Mr Coe dislikes the expression "butterfly gladioli". It is a bulb-seller's term, he says. A gimmick to sell more gladioli. But I like them.

The big, traditional gladioli has a stem which is stiff right to the top. There are no visible gaps between the flowers, which are packed up the stem like corn on a cob. It has been bred almost to a fault, and now, in an effort to coax show gladioli on to the bench to display their flowers barely touching each other, little wooden pegs are wedged between the opening buds and the stem, like some treatment



Gladioli-throwing entertainers Morrissey and Dame Edna Everage have made the plants infamous



for misplaced toes. The pity is that the big gladioli have no perfume: for this you have to look to the smaller, winter-growing species, such as *Gladiolus tristis*, which, except in favoured gardens, are more successfully grown in a pot under glass. A potful of *G. tristis* gives off the most delightful scent in the evening.

The Gladiolus society is not really concerned with the *tristis* species. Just as the British Iris Society concentrates on blowy hybrids and leaves the species to the members of its more specialised Species Group, so the Gladiolus society recommends that those who wish to see the delicate species go to the Royal Horticultural Society's spring shows at Westminster.

But how can people bear to grow such big gladioli with no perfume? Apparently it has not passed unnoticed by enthusiasts: love is not blind — but for gladioli it is, the large hybrids refuse to cross with the smaller, scented species.

Mr Coe hopes one day to achieve perfume through genetic engineering. Meanwhile, the big hybrids remain bright but unaluring.

Although gladioli are raised reasonably quickly from seed, (two to three years to flowering for *primulinus* types, four to five years for the big ones), their life in gardening is relatively short. Most new hybrids disappear from the specialist catalogues after five or six years, when the novelty wanes and the price drops. Thereafter, most gradually disappear.

For a gladioli, 30 years is a long lifetime, not least because virus is one of the great killers. Weakened by continuous clonal propagation and the incestuous beds of Gladiolus society growers, virus strikes all but the toughest — as it does with many irises and show leeks. The strappy-leaved plants of the monocotyledon brigade are a regular prey for virus under intensive growing conditions.

What gladioli need is good drainage (set them on sand or grit in a heavy soil) and then lots of water. In South Africa, they grow in wet, stream-side conditions, and do not object to an inch of rain a week during the period of active

growth. For well-presented spikes, individual staking with a cane is probably necessary. And they need full light, of course. It is this hunger for light from early season until late, when they finally strut their stuff, which makes me reluctant to use them in a mixed border.

All summer is a long time to give to leaf spikes, whatever their potential. Is a green summer gap worth eight weeks of autumn blaze? Maybe, but if they were happy poking up through something else they would be much more useful.

Even so, I shall have to try some of these new, subtler varieties. Many of the new varieties are coming in from America and Holland, the Americans tending to be bux and waxy of petal, the Dutch rather thinner. Others are coming from Russia and Lithuania, and the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The latter especially took my eye. There are no double gladioli, but 'Olinka' is so crimped it is the next best thing. The buds are green and beige, the open flowers an intriguing mixture of pink, yellow and beige. 'Dana' is similar.

The American 'Milesh' is a monster, but of the same colour trend. I saw only its individual cut flowers, but they were of an old-rose powder pink, over purple and white, like a lush dowager's nose. It would be a wonderful cut flower.

Of the *primulinus* types, I liked 'Shawna', ruby red, delicate, and all facing front; 'Apricot Perfect', a charming, pale orange with a yellow throat spotted orange; and 'Columbine', a Dutch butterfly with



Border companions Gladiolus 'Mont Blanc' and 'Wind Song'

mid-pink wings and a white body. Mr Coe's recommendations for good, easily available, big varieties of the past 20 years are 'Lowland Queen', bluish pink with red thumb print inside; 'Mont Blanc', white with an occasional pale mauve splash in the throat; 'Trader Horn', mid-red, with a white spear in the throat; and 'Green Woodpecker',

lemon green, with a maroon blotch in the throat. Other impressive modern varieties you should look for include 'Kristin', 'Holland Pearl', 'Drama', 'Violenta', 'Estu Bonita', 'Tesora', 'Atrium', and 'Irish Lass'.

● Nigel Coe, secretary, British Gladiolus Society, 24 The Terrace, Mayfield Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 2JL.

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' questions

Q My grandchildren put a mango seed in a pot this summer and left it behind the garden shed. To our surprise it sprouted. How do we keep it going? — Mrs Anne Harper, Taunton, Somerset.

A It needs a tall greenhouse if it is to produce fruit. In the wild it is a 60ft tree. But you can grow it as a pot plant for a few years. Bring it indoors and give it a light position. Keep it dry in winter and water well in summer.

Q This summer I bought two dwarf Japanese maples. They went into tubs on a south-facing terrace where, despite regular watering, the leaves shrivelled in the hot weather. I moved them into a northeast position and they recovered. Can they go back on the terrace now? — Mrs E. Levy, Kenton, Middlesex.

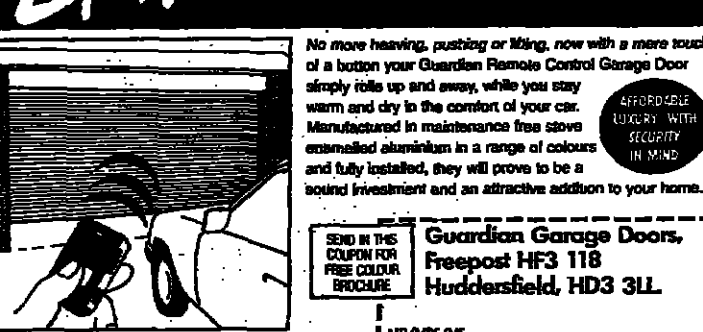
A The cut-leaved dwarf maple, *Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum*, and its coloured varieties, can scorch in hot sun even in a normal year. A position with a little more shade would be more suitable. At this time of year, and in winter, the aspect does not matter. These maples are wood hardy, but do not relish having their roots frozen.

● Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9NN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Protect late cauliflowers from frost damage by bending the leaves down over the curds.
- Pot-up mint roots for spring picking under glass.
- When blackened by the frost, lift dahlias, cut off the tops, dry tubers, dust with sulphur, label, and store in a cool, airy place.
- Dry off potted begonias and store.
- Gently feed cyclamen to strengthen them towards flowering.

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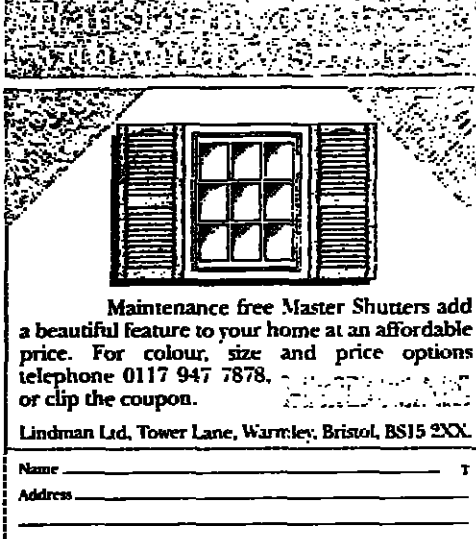
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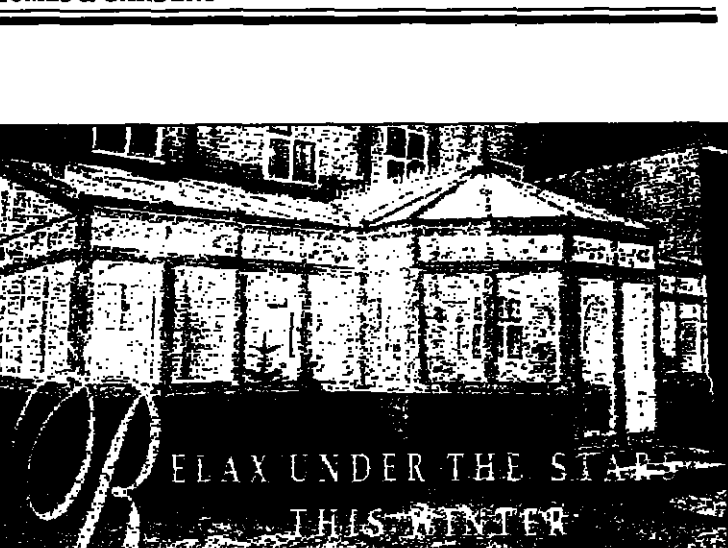
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The last Noël for me

■ THE CHRISTMAS BOX
By Richard Paul Evans
Simon & Schuster, £7.99

I AM a sucker for Christmas. I collect cribs, put candles in the window, and weep over Tiny Tim. Any little red book with a Victorian angel and "A Christmas Box" in gold is a reflex purchase.

Or was, until *The Times* put me through aversion therapy. They sent me *The Christmas Box* by Richard Paul Evans, a pretty little bauble which made No 2 in the New York *Times* bestsellers despite being the self-published testament of an ordinary Joe from Utah. It was, the chat-show circuit heard, rejected by six publishers: the implication being that it was too warm and honest.

Heck, it is just a simple tale of a formal-wear rental entrepreneur in Salt Lake City, whose family keep house for a sweet, rich old lady with a



Aversion: Christmas angel

brain tumour, who teaches them the true meaning of Christmas. Which is that formal-wear rental comes second to "a parent's pure love for a child". Publishers sneered, but its moving message triumphed over commercialism. Wrong. Those six publishers are heroes. They rejected this book because it is horrible: a repulsive piece of schmaltz, a ham-fisted ghost story which lurches towards a denouement straight out of the Erich Segal advice book for writers ("When you're stuck, kill a puppy dog").

Moreover, its author has a chronic cloth ear and horribly mingles talk of "prerequisites for co-habitation" with lunges at poetic diction such as, "In the silence of the lights we faced the death of a friend." Then he socks you with a dead baby. You nearly cry; then detest yourself and the meretricious little red swine of a book, and throw it out of the window, and have to retrieve it from the flowerbed in order to review it for the unfeeling *Times*-beast who has just cured you, forever, of any taste for Christmas angels.

LIBBY PURVES

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Ackroyd on Auden; Matthew Farris as homosexual normal; John Julius Norwich sails to Byzantium. Plus: Karen Armstrong on God and Matthew d'Ancona on the oldest fragment of the Gospel

For most of those who have spent their precious youth attending them, the very word "lecture" may be enough to induce a yawn, if not a shudder. In our impatient age, the idea of reading lectures for pleasure sounds perverse. Lectures — like speeches, broadcasts and sermons — are apt to be more diffuse and repetitive than texts intended to be read. If listening to a live lecture can be purgatory, reading the same words dead on the printed page must be hell.

Yet the staple reading of our ancestors was the sermon; and English literature would be very much poorer if our divines, from Lancelot Andrewes, Shakespeare's contemporary, to that pre-eminent Victorian, John Henry Newman, had never published the words they preached so eloquently. As the 19th century wore on, the function of the sermon was usurped by the academic, just as the dons abandoned their holy orders.

Simultaneously, writers discovered their new vocation as sages

Lecturing? There's a book in it

When writers mount the podium, a printed collection is bound to follow

and gurus. An insatiable appetite turned out to exist for anything that threw light on this most enviable of professions. (A survey in *GQ* magazine claims that the most popular alternative job among businessmen is "writer".) Many writers took academic posts, usually to teach literature. And while it is common enough for those who have succeeded in other fields to try their hands at novels, it is now rare to find writers who practise professions unconnected with writing, as the engineer Robert Musil, the chemist Primo Levi or the librarian Philip Larkin all did.

The net effect has been to give writers a permanent platform for talking (as opposed to writing) about themselves in front of the rest of us, whether in lecture halls or the media, more or less incessantly. No thrifty writer (and they all are) wishes to waste publishable materi-

al; and so collections of lectures now pour off the presses.

They may be publishable, but are they worth publishing? A fair sample is represented by two new volumes, both by very familiar writers: *Strange Things: The Malevolent North in Canadian Literature* (OUP, £15), four Clarendon Lectures given at Oxford in 1991 by the Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood; and *The Redress of Poetry* (Faber, £15.99), ten lectures given from 1989 to 1994 by the Oxford Professor of Poetry and new Nobel laureate, Seamus Heaney.



DANIEL JOHNSON

Heaney was by all accounts a popular incumbent of the only Oxford chair that is appointed by the students rather than the dons, fully maintaining its convivial traditions while taking the teaching side of the post very seriously indeed. But the lectures of this Northern Irish Catholic poet must have sorely disappointed those who had hoped for a

blast of Fenian nationalism to shake the Oxford colleges to their imperialist foundations.

Heaney's inaugural lecture celebrated the quintessentially English (and Protestant) figure of George

Herbert; and he invoked the shades of James Joyce and Thomas MacDonagh (executed for his part in the Easter Rising of 1916), neither of whom "considered it necessary to proscribe within his reader's memory the riches of the Anglophone culture whose authority each was, in his own way, compelled to challenge".

Throughout, Heaney refuses to allow his strong sense of Irishness to curtail his ability, as poet and critic, to draw on his British inheritance. He ends with an eloquent appeal to Unionists, that they "should make a corresponding effort at two-mindedness".

While the poet from the Province could take the whole world as his province and sound anything but imperialist, Margaret Atwood spoke on Canadian literature. In the introduction she wrote later, she affects to have been intimidated by

her "bored-in-advance" Oxford audience. (Having met the redoubtable, witty and seductive lady in question, I doubt this.)

Anyway, she spiced her first lecture — on the literary legacy of that ill-fated explorer of the Northwest Passage, Sir John Franklin — with a theme she knew the English would relish: cannibalism. And at the post-lecture sherry party, she "was treated to the spectacle of a number of Oxford academics nibbling hors-d'oeuvres and delicately discussing the question of who they would be prepared to eat". I should love to know which learned savants it was who told her: "I wouldn't eat the liver. I hate liver."

Despite their academic trappings, the literary qualities of both Heaney and Atwood are omnipresent in their lectures, which have only two things in common: unorthodoxy short — but not monotonously snooty — sentences; and a didactic purpose, artfully concealed. That purpose is to impart an irrepressible love of literature for its own sake.

Camelot in the Celtic raw

King Arthur stripped of most of his legend could be a hit-and-myth affair, but Peter Millar is spellbound

HANG on to your Tardis, Cornwall fans. After pillaging the 19th century from the Napoleonic to the American Civil wars, the man who gave us *Sharpe's Rifles* has hurried back a millennium and more to the Dark Ages and a ready-made hero: Arthur.

Except that this Arthur has been remade in an image contemporary with his supposed historical location. No Round Table here, no questing beasts or romanticised medieval chivalry. Richard Gere's ridiculous swashbuckling Lancelot in *First Knight* would recognise nothing in this saga of a wind-blown, dung-smelling Celtic Britain on the cusp between the fall of Roman civilisation and the barbarism of Saxon invasion — except perhaps its cinematic potential.

Cornwell's Arthur is not even a king. He is a warlord, famed indeed for his "knights", a band of Romanised cavalry equipped with primitive armoured. His mission is to protect the kingdom of the infant Mordred from the machinations of rival British tribal rulers who would usurp his hereditary position as High King, while simultaneously trying to forge some semblance of unity to face off the invading Saxon onslaught.

Arthur's tale is narrated by Derfel, a Saxon-born — and

■ THE WINTER KING
By Bernard Cornwell
Michael Joseph, £15.99

therefore usefully bilingual — former slave elevated to the ranks of the British, ie, Celtic, chieftains. But it is told with hindsight towards the end of a long life — as befits the first



Cornwell: ditching the baggage of later anachronisms

volume in a trilogy — when the "old world" that Arthur stood for has gone and he is already the stuff of legend: "These are the tales of the land we call Lloegyr, which means the Lost Lands, the country that was once ours but which our enemies now call Eng-

land." No "land of hope and glory" patriotism here: the Welsh nationalists will have a field day.

As he explains in a worthy, and interesting, note, Cornwell strove to rid the Arthurian legend of the anachronisms which later accrued to it. But he found this would have meant shedding so much of the myth that it would have lost its familiar ring. So Camelot becomes the poets' fictitious name for Dumnonia — roughly, Dorset — but Lancelot, Guinevere and Galahad are preserved, even if he tinkers with their traditional relationships with each other.

It is a half-way house which I found an uncomfortable solution. But where it does work, to outstanding effect, is in the character of Merlin, here entrancingly reincarnated as a feared druid, crouching and almost indifferent to sides in the Britons' internecine struggles, but fanatical in his quest for the "lost knowledge" which he believes will restore the old gods and banish both the heathen Saxons and lingering Roman Christianity.

The magic of Merlin and his adept, Nimue, is the stuff of sheep's skulls, incantations and spittle, its power rooted in psychology and faith. Spell-binding realism.

America meets its mincer

■ LONG PIG
By Jon Stephen Fink
Jonathan Cape, £10.99

not to leave the sausage-plant in the tender care of Heidi, who is too flaky to keep track of the difference between fertiliser and fancy foods.

Jon Stephen Fink's writing is jittery and baroque, and yet his jagged

metaphor can give way to piercing insight. Portraying a convention of creationists, his narrator asks: "What kind of science begins with its conclusions, trusts unknown processes and supernatural miracles over natural law as an explanation for evidence of the past? A description of Darwinism or the Bible? You decide. Capitalism and religion are the

engines of American society, and politics is the fuel that feeds them. Fink tackles these imposing subjects in a crowded, hugely entertaining tale whose only real fault is an excess of imagination. *Long Pig* is possessed of several climaxes, and one could argue that this blunts its impact. But Fink's writing is strong enough to sustain its vivid and peculiar finale, a moving evocation of cannibalism and an ascension into the very particular heaven of the Rev Jim Tickell.

ERICA WAGNER

The victim of a brutal attack, Julie Chimes learnt how to become a survivor

After the blood, it takes guts

A FEW years ago Julie Chimes was stabbed repeatedly in the chest, stomach, mouth and neck with a carving knife. The perpetrator of this vicious attempted murder was a paranoid schizophrenic woman named Helen, the patient of Chimes's doctor boyfriend, known as TC, who had sent Helen round to the house he shared with Chimes. Because of some confusion over her notes, TC did not know that Helen was a paranoid schizophrenic. But even if he had, what on earth was he doing sending a patient around to his own house in the first place?

It is a painful question to ask, not only because it raises the question of blame where blame is inappropriate, but because it is the one question which Chimes, in this thoughtful account of her attack and recovery, never really manages to answer for herself. As this book is partly about becoming a survivor and not a victim, the question of why Chimes wound up with a man so unable to draw boundaries

■ A STRANGER IN PARADISE
By Julie Chimes
Bloomsbury, £16.99

around his own life is important, for it is her relationship with him which underlines her initial vulnerability. After all, even when she is lying in intensive care, TC chooses to go away for the weekend. He cannot cope and she, though angry, defends him. Perhaps this tells you all you need to know about being a victim.

But Chimes has moved on since then and delved deep into the well of her own pain to produce a surprisingly good book, full of original and quirky touches, including the thank-you and no-thanks-to-you letters she writes to those involved. This prevents *A Stranger in Paradise* being merely a "what-it-feels-like-to-be-stabbed" book, and although there are moments when it makes curiously voyeuristic reading, the story of Chimes's recovery in ways beyond the physical gives the narrative real weight.



Chimes: delving deep into the well of her own pain

There are also many chilling accounts of the general disharmony caused by violent attacks. Witness Chimes's anger with all those who talked over her when she was in intensive care. The dying are not dead, she points out, and hearing people say you are dead must do nothing for morale.

Far worse, however, was the moment at the scene of the crime when a man refused to spread his jacket over Chimes

to keep her warm. She is going to die anyway, he reasons, so why ruin a good jacket? It makes you ashamed to be a member of the human race, and Chimes does well to remind us of the base, as well as the beautiful, in this brave and admirable account of what has made her life worth living since someone else tried to end it with her own kitchen knife.

MARY LOUDON

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NOVELS IN BRIEF

Small gem from the outback

■ THE OPAL DIVINER

By Alan Martin

Rampant Horse, £14.99

FRANK SLATTERY, the protagonist of Alan Martin's first novel, is a geologist turned prospector, whose decision to leave his lecturing job at an English university to look for opals in the Australian desert is partly a response to the mid-life crisis, partly a way of escaping memories of his unhappy marriage. When he is stranded in the desert after a disastrous prospecting trip, he takes refuge in an isolated hotel. There he is thrown into the company of four people: Jim and Kate Sutton, who run the hotel, and Willie and Jo, two drifters who are its permanent residents. Over the next few days, as the underlying tensions and rivalries between these four become apparent, Slattery is forced to reassess his own needs and desires — not least his attraction towards Kate. Martin's descriptions of the Australian outback are vividly perceived. By contrasting the immensity of the Australian landscape with the enclosed space of the hotel, he conveys the claustrophobia of the various relationships disrupted by Slattery's arrival. The result is a taut, carefully constructed narrative, whose ending is as unpredictable as its opening pages.

■ ISABEL'S BED

By Elinor Lipman

Bantam, £5.99

AT THE age of about 40, would-be novelist Harriet Mahoney is ditched by her lover after a 12-year relationship and feels as if her life has come to an end. Then she answers an ad in *The New York Review of Books* for a writer to "ghost" the memoirs of Isabel Krug — the glamorous "other woman" in a sensational murder trial — and finds her life changed forever. Installed in Isabel's luxurious Cape Cod mansion, Harriet wrestles with the task of giving literary shape to her employer's reminiscences, as well as, trying to get to grips with life as a single woman. Lipman's writing is funny and sharp — all the more so when she is being satirical. Her description of the earnest New York writers' group to which Harriet belongs is one example; no less devastatingly accurate is her account of the way relationships end.

■ THE WEDDING

By Dorothy West

Abacus, £9.99

THE FIRST novel for 50 years by one of the leading lights of the Harlem Renaissance movement gives an intriguing twist to the "race question". Set on the prosperous Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard, the novel centres on the marriage of Shelby Coles, a beautiful young woman from a wealthy black family, and Meade, a struggling white jazz musician. Shelby's family and friends are divided into those who favour the marriage, such as her grandmother, the daughter of a former plantation owner, and those, such as Shelby's sister Liz, who feel that she is betraying her racial heritage. Added to this already volatile mixture of characters is the rapacious Lute McNell, whose affairs with various white women have made him all the more determined to have Shelby for himself. West dramatizes the debate between these points of view with passionate conviction, leaving no doubt as to where her own sympathies lie: "Colour was a false distinction; love was not."

CHRISTINA KONING

BOOKS

7

Curiouser and curiouser

Peter Hennessy finds that age has only sharpened Tony Benn's inquiring mind



The Ranfurlys (right) in Palestine with Lord Yarborough

■ TO WAR WITH WHITAKER: The Wartime Diaries of the Countess of Ranfurly 1939-45. Mandarin, £5.99

TWO wars are fought in the early pages of these diaries: the world war and the newly married Countess of Ranfurly's personal war with military bureaucracy. She is determined to remain, against orders, in the Middle East where Dan, her adored husband, is stationed; they are equally determined to see her shipped home. It's a gripping battle with the outcome uncertain until the last memo is filed. But Hermione triumphs, and General Sir Henry Maitland (Jumbo) Wilson declares "this lady has out-manoeuvred every general in the Middle East". At last she is free to devote all her considerable enterprise, courage and intelligence to the real war effort: first at SOE in Cairo, where she ends up gathering evidence of its security lapses by stealth, then at the High

Commission in Jerusalem, later, and most importantly, as personal assistant to General Jumbo Wilson, Commander in Chief Middle East.

The pain of separation from Dan, who is taken prisoner early on, is only partly assuaged by the intrinsic interest of her work with its access to classified information and visiting VIPs. Her circle of friends is glamorous too (she lunches with Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and dines with the Duff Coopers and Fitzroy Maclean on one day in 1944), but there is no one more supportive than Whitaker, her husband's unforgettable valet and honky-tonk player extraordinaire.

Coco, her querulous parrot purchased in a Baghdad grain market, ends up in the rented Mayfair flat where in May 1945 the Ranfurlys finally get to unwrap their wedding presents. Honest, perceptive and very funny, these diaries are a delight.

■ PROLOGUE: An Unconventional Life

By Joan Brady

Abacus, £6.99

THE AUTHOR of the prizewinning novel *Theory of War* started her career as a dancer, first at the San Francisco Ballet School and then with Balanchine's New York City Ballet. In this sharp and elegant memoir she describes the years she spent in that obsessive world of bloodstained shoes and fearful rivalries. The real rivalry, though, was with her own mother — Brady made off with her mother's lover, and in return her mother did her best to destroy her daughter's career. Alas, the end of the book falls rather flat after the excitement of this high-octane period, and even the birth of Brady's son gets only a passing mention.



■ LA MOREAU:

A Biography of

Jeanne Moreau

By Marianne Gray

Warner Books, £7.99

DAUGHTER of a Lancastrian Tiller Girl and an unsuccessful Parisian restaurateur, Moreau was stage-struck from the age of 15 and became a *Comédie Française* star at 20. She acted in numerous mediocre films until, in 1958, Louis Malle launched her into the *nouvelle vague*. Malle also became her lover, as did most of her other directors — Losey, Welles, Tony Richardson and Truffaut, with whom she made *Jules et Jim*. Love, she claimed, was part of the creative process. Tough, dedicated, incapable of fidelity, Moreau emerges from this slightly shallow biography as a great survivor. Several men have claimed to be her son, though she had only one, Jerome, in 1948.

Contributors: Philippa Ingram, Hazel Leslie, Nicki Household, Fiona Hook

■ WAITING FOR THE DARK, WAITING FOR THE LIGHT

By Ivan Klíma

Granta, £5.99

KLÍMA'S novel views life before, during and after Czechoslovakia's 1989 "Velvet Revolution" through the eyes of Pavel, a middle-aged cameraman who argues with his boss without the courage to dissent, and his alter-ego Fuka, the hero of the screenplay he's going to write when freedom comes. But instead he starts an advertising agency, buys a fast red car and makes soft-porn films. He looks enviously at Peter, the friend with whom he once tried to defect: now exiled in the country and married to the girl they both loved. The book catches both the atmosphere of a society in transition and also the disappointment of a man who has let the important things in life slip past him.

THERE are only two people left in the House of Commons whose political existences have been so long and so full that you would want their times refracted through the individual prism of their lives. One is Sir Edward Heath, from whom we have not had a word of political memoir. The other is Tony Benn, from whom we have had six bulging volumes of diaries now crowned by the collected/abridged edition, chosen by his assistant, Ruth Winstone.

They span exactly 50 years — from Benn's Westminster school report of 1940 to his visit to Baghdad in 1990 on his mission to persuade Saddam Hussein to release hostages ahead of the Gulf War. In doing so, they have a favour of their own.

For, taken in one go, they show how nearly right Harold Wilson was in the mid-1970s to accuse Tony Benn of "immanence with age". It is true that he was more radical as Industry Minister in 1974-75 than he had been as Technology Minister in 1966-70. But the key to understanding the Benn of 1990 is to sense the continuities with the Benn of the 1940s.

What is so special about him is his constant curiosity about why things are as they are, why they have to be that way and what he can do about them. For this diary has a consistent

■ THE BENN DIARIES

By Tony Benn, selected, abridged and introduced by Ruth Winstone

Hutchinson, £25

function: Benn wants it to be a knowledge bank with a purpose — an instrument whereby he can be better placed to reform, and to change.

This is not immaturity: it is what Einstein called a "holy curiosity" of the kind that infuses and ennobles the best undergraduates, and it shines fortissimo when Benn talks to students himself (which he does with

a charm and a brilliance that can melt even those reared on their parents' *Daily Mail*).

Quite apart from the brio of illuminating a life almost entirely free of boredom (another rarity), the collected Benn has some critical patches of postwar history recorded hot. Probably the most important are the accounts of the long and fraught Cabinet meetings in November and December 1976 which finally produced a deal with the International Monetary Fund on financial support in return for spending cuts.

Benn thinks he knows the day that social democracy gave up the fight in postwar Britain — December 2, 1976, when his old Oxford Economics mentor, Tony Crosland, said he



Benn: a life free of boredom

disagreed entirely with Jim Callaghan's analysis but the Prime Minister had to be backed or sterling would collapse and with it the Labour Government. From these diaries we do not know if Benn thinks Tony Blair stands for Croslandism revived. I rather suspect that he does not (and that he is right).

Rottweiler with milk teeth

HE COULD have called it *Let Me Out, I'm Not Barry*. For more than a decade the tabloid columnist Richard Littlejohn has been in the grip of a magnificent and slow-burning rage against the idiocies of modern Britain. This selection of his columnist tantrums is wounding, funny, mocking, unfair and tonic. It is not, however, the ideal Christmas gift for an Eritrean lesbian, a humourless social worker or anyone who holds any kind of public office with Hackney Borough Council.

Littlejohn's recent journalistic and broadcasting career reads like a continuous, glorious and irresponsible lark. Though his attacks on the Royal Family were censored by the BBC and his phone-in escapades as an LBC presenter helped the station towards an early grave, he has generally been indulged by his employers. Liberal though my own editor is with me, I would not chance my luck by describing Prime Minister's questions as "a glorified wank", nor measure the integrity of the Palace's public relations machine as equivalent to the quantity you could get into the little bit at the end of a condom.

And this, you realise, is Littlejohn-on-a-leash. He has had a Tory Britain to satirise, poor fellow, as a right-wing writer. Watch out, Prime Minister Blair: Littlejohn is already growing in his kennel. I admire him, love his writing and am amazed that 1990s Britain has only produced one such satirist. I do not care at all that he is unfair — was Swift, was Wilkes, was

■ YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP
By Richard Littlejohn
Heinemann, £9.99

Michael Wharton fair? — and have never been able to summon up the appropriate indignation at his poofah-bashing passages. Homophobic? Ostensibly. Disablist? Well, judge for yourself: "Every road in the country will soon have more humps than a convention of Quasimodo impersonators." Insensitive? Read "EU-positive" — Littlejohn on a new viral infection.

No, good knockabout must be politically incorrect. Of Littlejohn I would venture only one complaint and it is the opposite one: he is not nasty enough. Often compared with a rottweiler, he is too often a Labrador, wagging his tail surprisingly often, and leaving not a gaping wound but a little pile of something unpleasant on the carpet.

There is a timidity among modern right-wing satirists. Hackney Town Hall is fair game, of course, attacking political correctness is now so fashionable that it is politically incorrect not to. Royal follies are easily ridiculed; and Eritrean lesbians are a fanciful target. Fine. Go for them. Go for them all. Enjoy the saloon-bar cheers. But why deal so gingerly with your readers' own prejudices?

When we see Littlejohn deliver just the occasional nip to the hand that feeds him, we shall know he has graduated from Labrador to rottweiler.

MATTHEW PARRIS



Pure Irish breed: *Come* (1950), from *The Art of Jack B. Yeats* by T. G. Rosenthal (Andre Deutsch, £14.99), a lavishly illustrated overview of the work of the Irish artist, too long overshadowed by his brother, the poet W. B. Yeats

Chatterley ever after

WHAT a cliffhanger! Two-thirds of the way through Elaine Feinstein's sequel to D. H. Lawrence's steamy shocker, we still do not know whether the unwed lovers will stay together. What really happened to the pregnant Lady Chatterley, and her gamekeeper lover, Mellors, has probably exercised as many imaginations as whether Rhet really did not give a damn when he walked out on Scarlett. Over the years *The Daily Telegraph's* Peter Simple column has reported sightings of that odd couple, the Mellors, usually in a mansion flat overlooking Kensington Gardens.

■ LADY CHATTERLEY'S CONFESSION
By Elaine Feinstein
Macmillan, £10.50

Lawrence's final (of three) version of the tale left the pregnant Connie and her jobless lover parted, but hoping to meet soon. Ken Russell ended his recent four-part BBC television series by packing the pair off to Canada. Emigration is an honourable solution to a social-sexual impasse in the English novel — as it was indeed for Lawrence and Frieda. When they fled England in 1912, she was a Nottingham professor's wife. Feinstein, with her usual

skill, weaves a narrative of the subsequent years of Connie and Mellors out of threads taken from the novel and from Lawrence's and Frieda's lives. Part of this little book's charm is to see familiar pieces reappearing in a new context — the fox face of the man, the smell of leaves in October, the jam-making, the ambivalence toward children, the plate-throwing, the tuberculosis.

If you did not like the original, you will not like the sequel. The same faults are there. The sex scenes are embarrassing "thrills", "bells" and the "bush of hair" come in for heavy duty. If you are a Lawrence-lover, how-

ever, you will see Lawrence's sins expiated through the female voice.

Feinstein faces up to some ugly Lawrencean ingredients — anti-Semitism, pro-Fascism, insane rage, hatred of "the beak" (the cleric) — and steers the narrative confidently towards an acceptable resolution.

It is an added bonus that the impotent Sir Clifford Chatterley ages gracefully and that the original book's real villain — his nurse, the fawning Mrs Bolton, so ready with the intimate massage — is killed off.

BRENDA MADDOX

Anthony Clare's astute insights are as arresting as his subjects' revelations

Speaking their minds

IN THE engaging jacket photograph, Anthony Clare is sitting on what looks like a bar stool. A happy circumstance, for his interviews are more like intimate conversations than clinical investigation.

There are few things more notoriously boring than accounts of other people's dreams or their psychological symptoms, and I have known psychiatrists who need recourse to stimulating substances to stay awake in the course of their professional day. Clare does not suffer from this affliction but seems to take pleasure in his work.

Many of his brief contributions to the discussions are as diverting as anything his guests offer. Talking to Sir Colin Davis, he remembers something that Michael Tippett had said about deriving strength from being an outsider. Indeed, observes Clare, "I sometimes think most people think of themselves as outsiders." In a time when there is such emphasis on a spurious "community", this insight deserves further discussion. In his interview

■ IN THE PSYCHIATRIST'S CHAIR
By Anthony Clare
Heinemann, £14.99

with Marjorie Proops, he remarks on the need of spies who want "desperately to say to somebody 'I'm not what I seem'" — at the very least, the kernel of a novel.

The truth is, of course, that the entertaining ease with which Clare conducts these programmes is the result of a profound knowledge of his subject. In the introductions to each interview, he speculates on the condition of humanity as well as on the personality of the guest in question, comparing Bernie Grant's insistence on the "importance of knowing your family tree, your ancestry and inheritance" with the attitude of Professor



Clare: pleasure in his work

Robert Winston, a pioneer of in-vitro fertilisation.

He is particularly interesting on Professor Bernard Knight, consultant pathologist at the Home Office, whose "daily job it is to examine the wrecked, ruined bodies of people murdered, raped, tortured and dismembered" and

who describes it "as just that, a job. I get up at nine o'clock and I do the day's work and I go home and do something else." He does however have a recurrent dream in which he is doing a post-mortem on a member of his family — and the subject is still alive. Clare writes that this interview drew an unusual flurry of correspondence from people shocked not at Knight's attitude to his work but at his "unqualified dismissal of religious belief as a 'form of mental aberration'".

A previous letter had rebuked Clare for neglecting the issue of religion, which he found extremely odd since "...hardly an interview passes without some discussion concerning belief, the purpose of life, the challenge of mortality, the nature of creation". This only goes to prove that people only hear what they want to and probably involves the concept of denial. Listeners should read the book, paying full attention.

ALICE THOMAS ELLIS

Teenage dreams in Sweet Valley

EVEN the author, it appears, cannot quite remember the title of her latest book. Of the 100 million copies of Francine Pascal's books for teenagers now in print, some of them go by numbers. We are talking mainly about the *Sweet Valley* series, in which twin Californian beauties, Jessica and Elizabeth Wakefield, go through high school and university obsessed with dating, beach parties and fashion while responding to challenging issues along the way.

Pascal says she thinks it is either number 115 or 116. In fact, *Nightmare in Death Valley* (Bantam, £2.99) is 116. In it, Jessica, the selfish and irresponsible twin, and Elizabeth, her more diligent and sensible sister, are participating in a desert-survival course when they are

overtaken by torrential rain and pursued by escaped convicts.

With a new book appearing each month, it is hardly surprising that Pascal cannot always remember what is due to pop up where. "Besides which," she says, "I don't write them." Instead, she produces a 15-page outline, which is farmed out to a team of writers. It is a complicated business that might shock any purists attending Children's Book Week, launched by Pascal at the Welsh Literature Centre in Swansea last week.

She was modestly "honoured" to be asked and one can only conclude that the world of children's books, which once banned Enid Blyton from schools and libraries, can no longer afford to be stuffy. Nowadays, anything which encourages

children to go on reading after the age of 13 is outwardly welcomed. But the emphasis on an acceptable image, as portrayed by the fashion-conscious Wakefield twins, has caused some to wonder if teen tales such as these are really holding up a mirror to teenage anxiety.

Pascal has another theory: "Using one as the bad twin and the other as a good one is a device which reflects the Jekyll and Hyde in everyone," she says.

In fact, Pascal's considerable talents can be seen to better advantage in the books she actually does write. More demanding teenagers will find the *Victoria Martin* trilogy (Bantam, £2.99) a satisfying cut above *Sweet Valley* cheesecake.

MAUREEN OWEN

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One more time for the sisters

Nicolette Jones on the relaunch of Virago's Modern Classics series

The women's publishing house Virago has recently been in a much-publicised state of crisis. Last year, tough times forced redundancies. The company moved, after an embarrassingly short time, back under the umbrella of former parent company Random House. The founding mother, Carmen Callil, resigned as chairman in February.

Last month, Harriet Spicer, managing director and the last of the company's founders, left, to be followed shortly by the editorial director, Lennie Goodings. But Goodings and Spicer have given Virago a parting gift, in the form of a publishing initiative they helped to orchestrate: the relaunch of the Virago Modern Classics that once made the company great. A lot depends on the success of this venture.

The series was launched in a mood of defiance and celebration in 1978, reprinting novels by women as part of Virago's philosophy of focusing on the lives, history and literature of women to provide "some balance to the dominant views of human experience", as Callil put it. They were fortunate in the climate of the time. They rode a wave of enthusiasm for reinstating women in their rightful place in literary history — or "herstory".

Choices for the classics were partly inspired by Elaine Showalter's *A Literature of their Own*, which sought to identify a female tradition in novel writing. Such writers as Antonia White, Willa Cather and Rosemary Leiman achieved a resurrected popularity. Hordes of women, and a good number of men, responded to the recommendation represented by the books' dark-green jackets and bitten-apple motif and they became a trendy accessory. And they were fun to read.

In their heyday, these paperback constituted 20 per cent of Virago's output. The company has never, in fact, ceased to publish its modern classics, and, since 1978, 400 of them have appeared. Not all of them were a success and far from all

will be relaunched. Callil went on to describe some as having an air of "faded chenille knicker-elastic". The list that was once the jewel in Virago's crown came to be perceived by detractors as a liability.

The current relaunch therefore has a whole new mood. It amounts to a rejacketing and a repositioning, along with a redefinition of the work to be included. Spicer describes the relaunch as involving "much more self-conscious 'hooah' than last time, when the Modern Classics were speedily published, with simple covers, as an expression of a passion. This time there has been careful redesigning and painstaking sales and marketing plans. Where once a cause could be counted on to move books from the shelves, now they are to be an alternative to other upmarket paperback fiction lists, as much about entertainment as about political correctness.

In fact, some of the books are far from radical. E. M. Hull's *The Sheik* is there because of the insight it offers into 19th-century sexuality. The attitudes in the reprints of dead authors are often dated but, says Spicer, "the better the writing, the less likely it is to be subject to the prejudices of the time". The irredeemably passé is not selected.

A good deal is being made of modern equivalents in the promotion: Kathy Lette introduces Mae West; Kate Saunders, Rosie Thomas and Sally Beauman introduce popular fiction by lesser-known Victorians and Edwardians. Next year, Liza Cody, Sara Paretsky and Sarah Dunant will introduce Crime Classics by such authors as Gladys Mitchell and Celia Dale.

A few men have been included for some time, and the new list contains much that is relatively recently published but judged likely to last. Works by Booker-shortlisted Pat Barker, Jeanette Turner Hospital, Angela Carter, and Margaret Atwood are among these. And there is no faded chenille about them.

Michael Binyon casts a fascinated eye over the centenary edition of *The Times Atlas of the World*



Mapping out a history lesson

I always try, if possible, to land on the blue square in *Trivial Pursuit*: geography. I dropped the subject early at school. But two boyhood interests have given me an extraordinarily useful grounding in geography: collecting stamps and poring over maps.

The beauty of an atlas was that it was always changing. New countries kept appearing and disappearing: my school atlas still marked Palestine, the Gold Coast and Tanganyika. I was fascinated by a rather battered 1939 atlas — which must have had a short shelf-life — that showed Aus-

tria as part of Germany, Danzig as a free city and Czechoslovakia as the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

The *Times Atlas of the World* is still the best, and the centenary edition, just published, is a startling revelation of how much the world has changed — politically, economically and in population growth — even in the past five years. Look at Europe: the old division of Germany has gone, and you can no longer find the Berlin Wall on the map of the unified city. But what a profusion of states in the east — all those former Soviet republics,

marked with clear international borders. Czechoslovakia split in two, and Yugoslavia is fully explained just by studying old realities: there is Croatia, with Slavonia and Dalmatia marked separately, Bosnia is in roughly its present borders, Macedonia and Albania are provinces of Turkey and "Serbia". And with remarkable foresight, the map-makers included an ethnographic map of the Balkan peninsula, that might have come straight from any of the *Contax* Group maps being argued over in New York.

Cities were far smaller: today's urban nightmares of São Paulo, Mexico City and Bangkok were charming, sleepy towns, and it would be 30 years before Rome reached the population it had at the height of the Roman Empire. Political correctness was an unknown concept. One map showed the distribution of negroes throughout the world. Another showed where the Mohammedans lived and how India was largely populated by "Brahmins". Nor were the Victorians afraid to admit their ignorance: the Arctic and the Antarctic are simply undelineated white spaces.

Great Britain — with Ireland — reigned in its old counties. Indeed one, Rutland — now about to re-emerge — was used as the standard scale for some of the remotest islands marked in the Pacific. But

what a network of rail routes covered the country. There was little point in marking roads in any country then, especially outside Europe, as they carried virtually no traffic. But the railways, and the projected railways in countries such as China, were of prime importance. On some maps you can still find the old Hejaz line to Medina, abandoned since T. E. Lawrence dynamited it in the First World War.

John Bartholomew was *The Times*'s cartographer, and he served the paper well. It was thanks to this great Edinburgh mapping firm that much of what we take for granted on maps today — from the range of greens, browns and purples to give precise rendering of height, for example, and the colouring of the British empire — was such that Sir John Murray, the oceanographer, named the 25,000ft trench off Antofagasta, Chile, the "Bartholomew Deep". The name is still in the latest *Times Atlas*.

A hundred years of map-making have certainly influenced the way *The Times* itself looks at the world. More than most papers, *The Times* insists on a detailed map to elucidate political developments. Wherever possible, it insists that references and names in correspondence "dispatches" match those in the *Times Atlas*. The latest edition has run ahead of us a little: the paper still refers to "Belorussia", whereas the new edition of the atlas has taken the political plunge and recognised the new, independent country of Belarus under its preferred name.

Studying an atlas is an education in far more than just economic and political geography. There are guides to every country in the world in the new edition, with flags, population, habits, currencies, languages, capitals and religions.

There are charts of the night skies and satellite views of the globe. There are sections on vegetation, climate and earthquake and volcano frequency. All of these will help you to win at *Trivial Pursuit*. But best of all, there are good, clear maps. Nothing can be more fascinating than those.

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In 1972 the first Concise Edition was published in the form of an abridged version of the Comprehensive Edition. Since then there have been six editions of the Concise, each extensively updated, but each containing essentially the same selection of maps, and the map scales and areas covered remained the same. This new seventh edition, however, is radically different.

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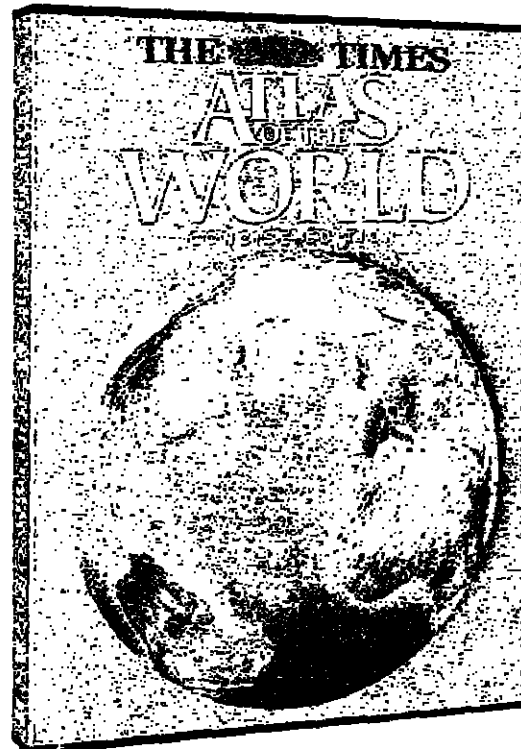
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Well-worn path of heat and lust

THERE is a much-used plot in which an ingenious young woman leaves England for some outpost of empire to meet the parents she hardly knows. On the voyage out, she is faced with an example of man's inhumanity, which half prepares her for the horrors to come. Arriving at her destination in a welter of shock and excitement, she finds both a suitor and a man to love. After various tribulations (usually including war) and illicit love-making (often resulting in pregnancy), she achieves happiness.

Sue Limb's version has Sophie Wetherby going out to her father's sugar plantation on Sabato in the West Indies. Her suitor is Charles Craig, a neighbouring planter; her lover, Julius, one of her father's slaves; the war, an uprising of the mistreated slaves.

Passion Fruit, which romps along at a brisk pace, has more explicit sex than most of its predecessors. Before Craig can be saved by love, he rapes his female slaves whenever he feels like it and resorts to surreptitious masturbation during dinner with Sophie and her brother, so inflamed

■ **PASSION FRUIT**
By Sue Limb
Heinemann, £8.99

is he by the thought of "the moist weight of her breasts".

It is hard to tell how seriously the author takes all this. Her account of Sophie's discovery of the cruelties of slavery burns with sincerity, but neither the emotions she bestows on her characters nor the actions they provoke carry as much conviction. Once Craig has been shown the error of his ways by Sophie's disgust, he ceases to violate his slaves. Instead he has himself whipped until he has achieved redemption. Then, wearing a crown of white flowers for Sophie, he proposes to her although he knows that she is pregnant by Julius. Having discovered true love, Sophie cannot accept the offered escape from her predicament and in due course is rewarded with a life of bliss.

With sex, slavery, romance, and coming of age, this novel has something for everyone but perhaps not quite enough for anyone.

KATE HATFIELD

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PROPERTY

11

If you dream of running a post office in the country, be sure to do your homework beforehand, says Cheryl Taylor

Put your stamp on a village

There is growing demand from prosperous "townies" who are tired of urban life and want to move to an unspoilt rural location to set up home and shop. The idea of owning a village post office and general store has definite appeal, especially for those fed up with the daily commute on overcrowded roads.

Village post offices and stores are becoming highly sought-after, particularly in the Home Counties, the Cotswolds and parts of rural Somerset, Devon and Dorset, despite the long hours.

According to Peter Millard, senior negotiator for Christie & Co., a specialist business agent, there has been a three-fold increase in demand for rural post offices over the past 18 months. "Newcomers are typically in their forties or fifties, taking early retirement or redundancy from middle-management careers. They do their homework and are far more hard-headed about setting up a business than used to be the case," Mr Millard says.

Liam Buncraft, head of the commercial department of Miller & Son, a west country estate agent, also reports a high level of activity. "Now that counter services have been excluded from any Royal Mail privatisation, confidence has returned to this sector of the market," he says.

The advantage of running a sub-post office is that hours are reasonable: usually a five and a half day week, even if the shop needs to stay open longer. It also carries a remuneration package from the Post Office, which varies, depending on the level of counter transactions, and is reviewed every year. A busy sub-post office in a village, for example, might attract a payment from the Post Office of £26,000, although the average is probably around £8,000.

There are disadvantages, however. To a certain extent, you are chained to the job; some sub-postmasters are not



Open all hours: Judy Farnsworth (above) and her husband Stephen run the village post office and store in Porton

THE effort spent running a village post office and shop which is open all hours is illustrated in the case of Stephen Farnsworth and his wife Judy. They both enjoy country pursuits, but find living above the shop has its disadvantages. When Mr Farnsworth was made redundant from his job as development director of an international hotel company, he traded in his four-bedroom detached house in Purley, Surrey, for a village post office and general store in Porton, near Salisbury.

A year and a half later, he finds running his own business a lot harder than travelling the globe looking for hotel sites. "We both love village life. Judy has joined the local ladies group and I've taken up bell-ringing. The problem is we always seem to be working," says Mr Farnsworth, who paid £193,000 for the property and business combined, and earns about £23,000 a year from the Post Office. The couple work a

CASE HISTORY

12-hour day, opening the shop from 8am to 8pm, and the post office from 9am to 5.30pm, six days a week, with no break for lunch. They have recently extended the off-licence section to include a wider selection of wine, and now offer home-made sandwiches, which are proving popular.

"We are at the centre of the village, and a meeting place. We both enjoy chatting to regulars, but one thing is certain: we are not going to make a fortune running a village post office and store," he says.

Family holidays are out of the question because the business must come first. Mr Farnsworth says: "It is impossible for us to go away on holiday together. Although we can get coverage for three weeks a year from the Post Office, we have to find a retired postmaster to look after the place, and pay the difference between what he charges and what the Post Office will pay."



money to pay for stock. In the case of sub-post offices, there is an initial administration charge of 25 per cent of annual Post Office income charged by Post Office Counters.

Although you can pick up a freehold bungalow with a small shop and post office kiosk attached for as little as £81,500 in Suffolk, most cost a lot more. A larger property with a more profitable business in a popular location such as the Cotswolds or Dorset, will set you back between £150,000 and £250,000, excluding stock. Leasehold stores cost less, from £40,000 for a 15-year lease.

Location is vital. There must be enough people living near by who will use your shop year-round, in addition to any holiday trade. Visit the chosen area as often as you can, preferably during winter months, study the competition, and find out what potential there might be for improving the business. It also makes sense to work behind the counter in a village store to see if the lifestyle would suit you.

Robert Campany, corporate retail director of Christie & Co., advises would-be sub-postmasters and shop proprietors to buy the best business you can afford and compromise on the house. "A character cottage with roses around the door may not necessarily produce sufficient profit."

Christie & Co. runs regular seminars aimed at people going into business for the first time, with speakers from Post Office Counters Ltd and the Sub-Postmasters Federation. These cost £150 a person for an all-day seminar with lunch (£250 for a complete information from Christie & Co. 0171-486 4331).

Post Office Counters run free courses for new sub-postmasters. They provide training support on a one-to-one basis in the sub-post office for the first two weeks, with follow-up training to help with the accounts, plus help on new products and services, such as Bureau de Change.

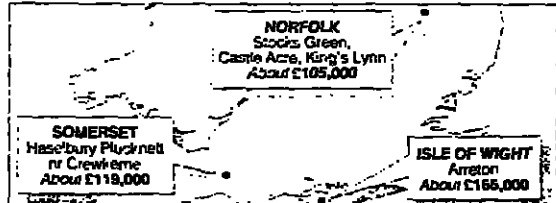


Somerset: Haselbury Plucknett Post Office, near Crewkerne. Post Office/convenience store in a village, five miles from Yeovil. Two bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, storeroom. Garden and double garage. Post Office pays £7,400 a year. About £119,000 (Christie & Co. 0117 9744566).

FOR SALE
Village post offices



Norfolk: The Post Office and Gift Shop, Stocks Green, Castle Green, King's Lynn. Shop with post office kiosk at the centre of the village. Three bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, office and lawn rear garden. Post Office pays £11,958. About £105,000 (Christie & Co. 01473 256588).



Isle of Wight: Arretton Post Office and Stores. Four bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, kitchen, with shop extension. Parking for six cars. Large garden. Post Office pays £6,680 a year. About £165,000 for a 999-year lease (Christie & Co. 01962 844455).

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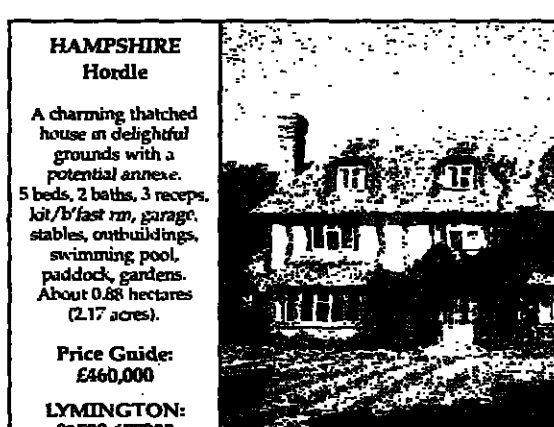
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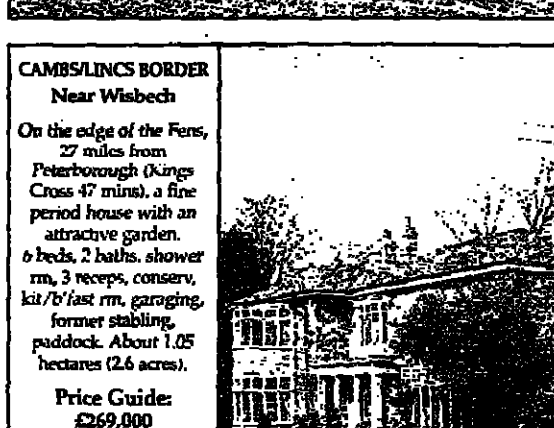
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Smock man comes out of the closet



Smock horror: Star the carthorse and Paul Heiney

I half expected to be greeted by an explosion of photo flashes, a heaving throng of people craning their necks. I had imagined it would be something like the scene which occurs whenever Liz Hurley gets a new frock. I thought at least Vogue might have sent a reporter down.

But it was not to be. As promised, I appeared at our local ploughing match wearing my newly made farmworker's smock, and hardly anybody took a blind bit of notice.

There was the odd jest: some greeted me with "good morning vicar", one asked if the smock came with a truss. There was even a rumour spreading around the showground that I was wearing nothing underneath, but even that aroused little interest.

The truth of the matter is that the people who come to ploughing matches have eyes only for horses and, quite frankly, it could be Dame Edna Everage herself on the handles of the plough and they would not notice. This is a healthy state of affairs.

proving that competitive horse ploughing is the only equine sport left where the cult of personality has made no inroads whatsoever. I suppose that will all change the moment Jilly Cooper writes a blockbuster called *Furrow*.

It is interesting to stand at the end of a completed furrow (while the carthorses take a breath, and you wonder how your wavy lines can ever be made straight), and watch the way in which the horses are admired. In most cases, they are cooed over for the kindness of their eyes, blessed for being "such gentle giants", or spoken to as if they were beloved grandchildren who were working hard at school. It is easy to love a carthorse for its looks, but it is a pity to fail to spot the animal's real talent.

You should not be looking at eyes, ears, horse brasses or harness: you should be watching its feet as the horse moves down the furrow, carefully placing each step as precisely as a grandmaster moving a chess piece.

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

The carthorse's talent for putting its foot in the right place at the right time is what sets it apart from other horses. You might look at a wispy, slimline, light horse in a dressage competition and marvel at the way it twists and turns and responds to its rider. But ignore the bulk of the carthorse and watch its feet and you will see that, in its own hob-nailed way, it can perform tricks with its feet just as intricate.

Sometimes our horse Blue is good at walking in the furrow, then the thought crosses his mind that it might be fun to step out of it for a change. At such times he has to be driven, rather than allowed to wander his own way, until he remembers his place. But his lapses are rare and it is widely believed that a good carthorse needs no driving, for once shown its task it will then know what it has to do.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that our new young horse, Taffy, is

now at the settled stage where he has left school, got through his teenager-type phase, and is just four, and with another year's experience he will be a first-class worker. Taffy drew quite a crowd of admirers at the ploughing match, not only because he has such a benevolent face that most people find him irresistible, but because he is something of a star in his own right.

This is why, a couple of years ago, the thought occurred to me that although the effective use of carthorses is a skilled business, the real credit never goes to the person who deserves it most: the one who broke the horse to harness in the first place. It is one thing to school a horse that is already broken, another to take a raw horse off the field and accustom it to obeying commands, wearing a collar round its neck and a bit between its teeth. It is not a job for the faint of heart, or the indecisive. It is a real man's job, or, in the case of Taffy, a real woman's job.

Taffy was broken by the legendary Cheryl Clark of Suffolk. She has the sort of commanding personality which anything would be foolish to ignore. She takes horses that have put the fear of God into others and makes them compliant. She can also put the fear of God into me.

So, for the months she spent breaking Taffy to harness, she was followed by a camera. The video is now out. It answers every question you could ask about the schooling and keeping of a carthorse; it makes clear the patience and devotion that is needed before a young horse can be handled safely over to someone like me. If you get hold of a copy of the video, do watch dear Taffy growing up, and watch his feet and see how he learns to use them. Always assuming you can keep your eyes off the formidable Mrs Clark.

● The video *First Steps in the Furrow* is available from Farming Press, Warfield Road, Ipswich IP1 4LG (01473 24122), price £14.95, pp 62.

Surrounded by urban sprawl, a traditional apple orchard flourishes in the heart of a London borough

At the traffic lights, branch left for Eden

There is no kind of fruit better known in England than the apple, or more generally cultivated. It is that use, that I hold it almost impossible for the English to live without it, whether it be employed for that excellent drink we call cider, or for the many dainties, which are made of it in the kitchen. In short, were all other fruits wanting us, apples would make amends.

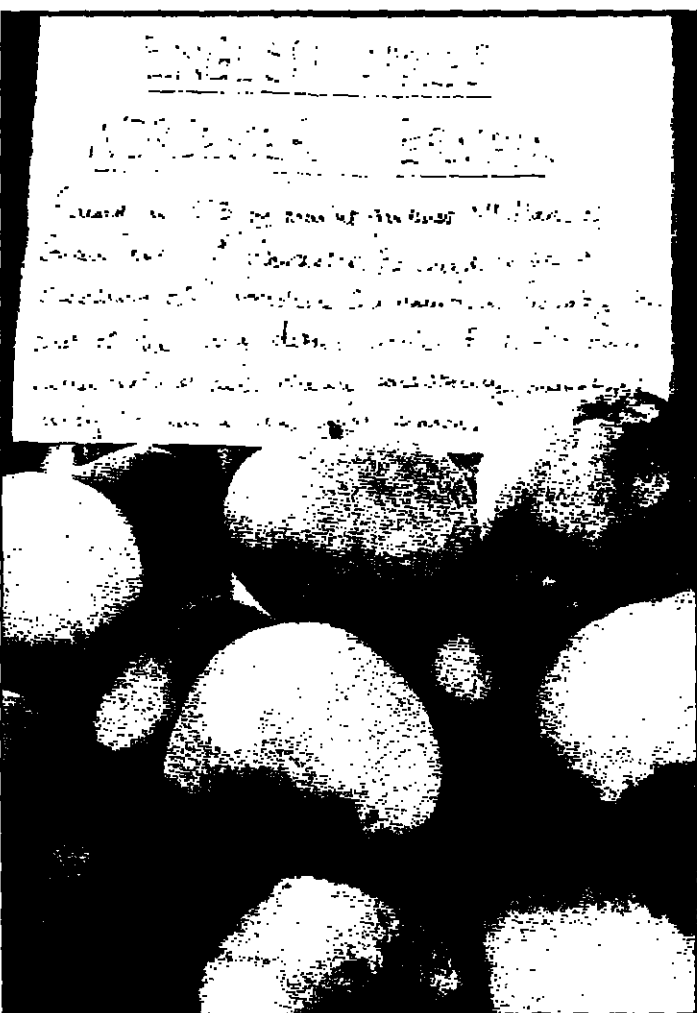
So wrote the horticulturist Richard Bradley in 1718, nearly 1,300 years after the first apple arrived in Britain, brought by the Roman general Ezio in AD 450. Despite its exotic origins in China's Heavenly Mountains, the apple has come to be seen as quintessentially British. It flourished in the gardens of the Tudors and Stuarts, and the Victorians had a passion for it.

But now, we hear, the apple is in decline. The market is flooded with pappy Continental produce. The European Union is paying British farmers to destroy their orchards. Only last week came the claim that bananas have taken over as Britain's most popular fruit. There is a whiff of conspiracy about. And yet as Apple Day — Saturday, October 21 — approaches, the traditional apple is flourishing, and is being grown with as much care as ever.

That is certainly true in Brian Haw's case. Mr Haw has applied the dedication and precision that saw him through 30 years in the Army to the raising of a remarkable orchard in Woolwich, south-east London — a place better known for arsenals and artillery. Jigsawed by relief roads, Woolwich seems an unlikely place for a verdant grove. But Mr Haw has made a little Eden on one and a half acres, where he raises more than 40 different varieties of apple — as well as pears, plums and blueberries — screened from exhaust fumes by a solid row of spreading plane trees. Only the distant roar of traffic hurtling up Shooter's Hill reminds visitors that they are not in the deepest countryside.

It was a fascination with dwarf root stocks that first brought Mr Haw into the apple trade in 1985. His orchard now supplies Neal's Yard Dairy in Covent Garden, central London, with seasonal apples of all kinds, and provides the material for chutneys and preserves sold at horticultural fairs throughout Britain. Neal's Yard also purveys his fruit cheeses — a preserve made not with milk but with twice the fruit and half the sugar of jam.

"People want real fruit off real trees," he says. "They are perfectly



Historic harvest: Mr Haw's produce on display at Neal's Yard

happy to accept imperfections as long as it tastes wonderful." Larger, commercial growers, breeding for visual perfection, might disagree, but Mr Haw sold nearly two tonnes of apples last year, despite his higher prices.

During my visit I filled my pockets with Laxton Superb, Reverend Wilkes, Jupiter, Jester, Doctor Kidd's Orange Red, Blenheim Orange. All Mr Haw's apples are "true", or pure-bred: grown from buds grafted on to specially bred root stocks. These stocks are a virus-free strain of tree used as a "base" to take any variety of apple the gardener wants grafted on to it.

"If you were to take the seeds out of a load of apples and plant them," Mr Haw says, "you wouldn't get the apple you planted. You'd get a cross of that apple and whatever pollinated it. Only the apple that comes off the graft is true. Of course, there are people who plant

seeds in the hope that ultimately they will produce some wonderful apple: what they want is a miracle of nature. And sometimes that's what you get."

While the British Independent Fruit Growers' Association admits that more than 2,000 hectares (about 5,000 acres) of orchard have been lost to EU payouts over the last four years, all were young, commercial orchards. Traditional orchards — usually defined as widely spaced standard fruit trees of old and often scarce varieties — are increasingly protected.

Since 1991, 219 such orchards have been preserved through the Countryside Commission's Countryside Stewardship programme. This gives grants to owners of orchards who agree to maintain them, and has been so successful that it is being taken over by MAFF's Historic Landscapes programme.

The Brogdale Horticultural Trust, at Faversham, Kent, is only a



Precision pruner: Brian Haw in his orchard, where he grows more than 40 varieties of apple

few miles from the site of England's first great fruit collection, established in 1533 by Richard Harris, fruiterer to Henry VIII. Brogdale holds the National Fruit Collection, with more than 2,000 varieties of apple. Aside from its three-day celebration of Apple Day, when Mr Haw will be showing his produce, it holds regular "bud while you wait" and "graft while you wait" days when, for a small fee, traditional varieties will be grafted on to a root stock of your choice.

Apple Day, intended to be "a countrywide celebration of the diversity of fruit and orchards", was the idea of the conservation charity Common Ground: the first such day was held in 1990. Sue Clifford, the chief executive of the organisation, believes that the secret of the apple's survival is knowledge.

"As soon as people can taste more varieties, they respond to them and want them. Orchards are part of a region's culture and heritage, and must be preserved," she says. "To stroll through Mr Haw's trees and taste their bounty is to know

that Richard Bradley was right: a fine apple will make friends for almost anything."

ERICA WAGNER

● Brian Haw, Academy Fruit, 33 Capstan Square, London E14 0JF-515 5887. National Fruit Collection, Brogdale Horticultural Trust, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent ME15 8ZG (01795 535286/535462). Neal's Yard Dairy, 17 Sherrin Gardens, London WC2H 9AT (0171-379 7645). For grant inquiries: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HRT (01645 335577).

Feather Report

That's it in a nutshell

THE FIRST beechnuts are falling, and it looks as if it is going to be a good harvest. The hard, hairy nutshells split open to reveal a pair of triangular seeds, which all too often are like little withered cornucopias, with nothing inside except dark brown fur. But this year I have already found many with sweet, plump white flesh under the brown rind.

If it does prove to be a good year for beech mast, it may also be a good one for bramblings. These are finches from Scandinavia and Finland that mostly eat beechnuts in winter. They are often found with chaffinches, to which they are closely related. They are the only two species of British finch that can run or walk on the ground — the others hop.

At first glance, bramblings might be mistaken for chaffinches, but they are more orange than pink on the breast, and also have orange



Nut-eating brambling

shoulders and a darker head. When they fly up they are easily distinguished by their conspicuous white rump.

Bramblings are among the most opportunistic of migrants, having no regular winter quarters but going each year where the beech mast is most abundant. Some years they are quite common in Britain.

The most astonishing winter that has been recorded in their history was 1946-47. That year there was a great beech harvest in Switzerland, and vast flocks of them descended on the country. There may have been as many as 100 million — practically the whole breeding population of northern Europe.

In Britain, most winters I feel lucky to get a glimpse of a single one! But this year holds out the promise of better things.

DERWENT MAY

● What's about Birds — Watch out for redwings, migrating. Twickers — yellow warblers at Brownstone Head, Co. Waterford; upland sandpiper at St Agnes, and northern plover at St Agnes, both on the Isles of Scilly. Details from Birdline (091) 70222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

EVENTS FOR APPLE DAY



Old apple favourites (left to right): King of the Pippins, Lady's Finger of Offaly, Rose of St Florian, Linda, Ohio Nonpareil, Worcester Permain and Taunton Cross

pruning and planning demonstrations, sale of apples and trees storytelling. The event ends with a concert in Staveron church. Train and coach trips to Apple Day from Totnes and Buckfastleigh. Contact: Trudy Turrell, South Hams Environment Service, 01803 861234.

about the old apples of Essex. Nearly 200 trees will be planted later in the year at the farm, all Essex varieties. Cider, apple pies and tastings. Contact: John Meenan, Thames Catch Community Forest, 01708 648800.

farm, tastings, juice-making, pest and disease workshop, cookery demonstration with six top chefs, sales of apples, trees, apple games, and pruning displays. Contact: Paul Roberts, 01489 878616.

KENT Meet at Chapter Arms, Chatham Hatch, near Canterbury, 2pm. Guided walk through the orchard and chance to learn about the wildlife that inhabits it. Contact: Jon Shelton, 01233 813307.

LINCOLNSHIRE Woodthorpe Manor, Woodthorpe-by-Colsterworth, near Grantham, 11am-5.30pm. Birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton and the famous apple tree. Food, apple games, grafting techniques and sales. Contact: Marian Cullen, 01476 860338.

LONDON The Butler's Wharf Chop House, Apple Day menu. Contact: William Black, 01272 260590 (bookings, 0171-403 9403).

OXFORDSHIRE Sulgrave Manor, near Banbury, October 21-22, 10am-5.30pm. Display of apples and tastings, identification, pruning and grafting, cider stall, cookery with Sophie Grigson. Contact: Maureen Jeffrey, 01295 760205.

SOMERSET Over Stratton, South Petherton, 12.30pm onwards. William Waldegrave MP will be guest of honour at the launch of "Somerset five-year-old" cider brandy. Contact: Julian Temperley, 01460 40782.

SCOTLAND Tweed Horizons, Newnham St Boswells, Roxburghshire, 10am-4pm. Apple tasting, grafting, pruning and cookery. Contact: Derek Mackenzie-Hook, 01835 822122.

NORTHERN IRELAND The Ballance House, Glenavy, Co. Antrim, 2.5pm. Tastings, cookery show, competitions and games. Contact: Ms B.J. Logan, 01646 64942.

ALL Apple Day events listed are on October 21, unless stated. For more information about what is happening in your area, or on how to organise your own Apple Day event, send a stamped, addressed envelope to Jane Kendall, Common Ground, Seven Dials Warehouse, 44 Earlsam Street, London WC2H 9LA.

AVON Parade Gardens, Bath, 11am-4pm: apple identification, Gardeners' Question Time with Peter Thoday, displays, children's activities and games, apple food and drink, tree giveaway. Contact: Pat Tait, Bath City Council, 01225 47653.

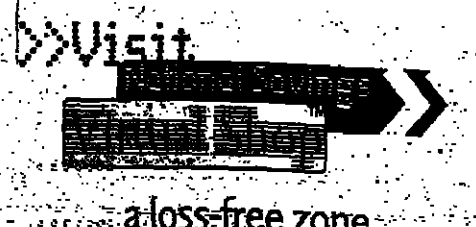
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Home Cottage Farm, four, near Slough. Tours of orchards, sales of apples, displays, games plus many more activities have been organised by local people and Colne Valley Groundwork. Contact: Claire Thirwall, 01895 832662.

CHESHIRE Norton Priory Walled Garden, Runcorn, 2pm.

Cornwall (Tamar) Countryman Cider, Milton Abbot, 10.30am-12.30pm and 2-4pm. Tamar cider event, a look at apples and their part in landscape, wildlife and local history. Chance to see cider production. Contact: Tamar Valley Countryside Service, 01579 70038.

CUMBRIA Acorn Bank Garden, National Trust, Penrith, 1-3pm. Advice and information on northern apple varieties, identification, tree pruning and grafting demonstrations, games and refreshments made from apples. Contact: Chris Braithwaite, 01768 361893.

DEVON Joint Staveron and Landscope event at Woolston Green, Landscope, near Totnes, 10.30am-5pm. Apple café, produce stalls, cider bar, wassailing, apple games.



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SHOPPING

13

With early posting dates for Christmas in mind, Stephanie Lewis

chooses her mail-order charity cards



"Farmyard Animals", RSPCA. 5 1/2 in square. Colourful and particularly appealing to the children. £3.20 for ten



"Angel Trio", featuring detail from a Carpaccio painting. Save the Children. Cut-out-style card, measuring 3 1/4 in high overall x 7 in. £3.99 for ten

Greetings in a good cause

I know it's only October, but you have already missed the last surface mail posting dates for cards to Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, the Wallis Islands and, would you believe, Christmas Island. You will only make the date (October 23) for the Turks and Caicos Islands if you get your skates on. So, seriously, it's time to think about Christmas cards.

If you want to make the most of donating to a good cause in the process, the Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers says that charities get the best deal if you buy your cards direct from the charities, preferably from their mail-order catalogues.

I have examined many of this year's cards and chosen what I think are the best in terms of attractiveness and value for money. All cards featured can be overprinted with your address, unless otherwise stated.

If your taste is for the traditional, my suggestion would be the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund's "Madonna and Child" (£2.75 for ten), an elegant old-master reproduction which is traditional without being stuffy. My runner up is Save the Children's "Angel Trio" by Carpaccio (£3.99 for ten) with the angels' heads projecting above the basic card area. Cherub lovers might consider the British Heart Foundation's "Two Cherubs" (£3.25 for ten).



"Dove of Peace" in blue and gold. The Royal British Legion. 5 1/2 in x 8 1/2 in. £2.70 for ten

In contemporary designs, the Terrence Higgins Trust's colourful and charming "Virgin and Child" (£3.50 for five, including mail-order P&P, but not overprinted) by Beryl Cook is modern and Christmassy and will stand out on any mantelpiece. I also liked the bright and pretty "I Saw Three Ships" (£2.75 for ten) from the NSPCC.

Oxfam's mixed pack of woodcut-style cards in earthy colours, "Star of Wonder" (£2.29 for ten, no overprinting), is attractive yet non-denominational. Many Oxfam cards offer greetings in Welsh. (Why not Gaelic? There will be rumblings north of the border.) And if you like

cards which reflect the charity they benefit, "Children's Christmas" (£2.40 for ten, no overprinting) from the joint Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and Barnardos catalogue shows four child-eye aspects of Christmas and is sweet without being schmaltzy.

Bird lovers could opt for the RSPB's Society of Wildlife Artists Award-winning winter scene, "A Gathering of Herons" (£2.95 for five) by David Birns, and animal lovers for the RSPCA's smart "Farmyard Animals" (£3.20 for ten).

I am not particularly keen on humorous Christmas cards, but was tempted by "Added Incentive" from Help the Aged (£2.75 for ten) — a classic Thelwell illustration for all pony-mad children.

Finally, there have been two important anniversaries this year which you may feel like commemorating: this Christmas, to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, choose the Royal British Legion's "Dove of Peace", a striking card in blue and gold (£2.70 for ten), and from the British Red Cross, which has now brought succour to victims of war and natural disasters for 125 years, choose "St Paul's and Ludgate Hill" (£2.90 for five), the quintessential London-in-winter scene featuring an old-fashioned Red Cross ambulance.



"Virgin and Child", modernistic painting by Beryl Cook. The Terrence Higgins Trust. 7 in x 5 in. £3.50 for five



"Madonna and Child", Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund. 5 1/2 in square. £2.75 for ten

"Star of Wonder" scene. Oxfam. 4 1/2 in x 6 1/2 in. £2.29 for pack of ten

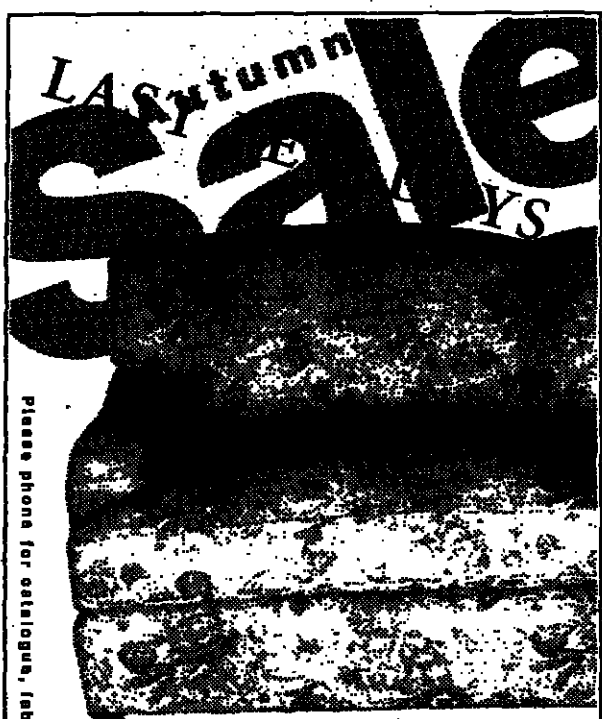


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British Heart Foundation
Overprinting £2.50, P&P £3.25 on all orders. Last order date Dec 4. Call 01793 433500 for a catalogue.

The British Red Cross
Overprinting £2.50, P&P £3.25 on orders up to £70, then free. Last order date Dec 4. Catalogue, 01283 506109.

Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund
Overprinting £2.50, add a personal message of up to 15 words at no extra cost. P&P £3.25 on orders under £50, then free. Last order dates: Dec 4 for overprinted, Dec 11 for non-overprinted orders. Catalogue, 0171-351 7811.

Help the Aged
Overprinting price includes cost of cards and envelopes and is from £2.90, depending on price-band of chosen card. Three greeting options plus personal greeting for an extra £16.20p. P&P £1.95 on orders under £10. Last order dates: Nov 14 for

overprinted cards, Dec 10 for non-overprinted cards. Catalogue, 0181-807 8074.

Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital/Barnardos
P&P £2.50-£3.49 on orders up to £100, then free. Last order date Dec 1. Catalogue, 01268 288577.

NSPCC
Overprinting £2.50, P&P £3.35 on orders under £70, then free. Last order dates: Dec 4 for overprinted, Dec 14 for non-overprinted. Catalogue, 01283 506202.

Oxfam
P&P £2.95 on all orders. Allow 28 days for delivery. Express delivery is available for a further charge of £5. Catalogue, 01869 245011.

Royal British Legion
Overprinting £3, including P&P. Last order date Dec 8. Telephone Paula Woodcock on 01452 712326 for leaflet.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Overprinting £2.50, P&P £3.35 on orders up to £70, then free. Last order date Dec 4 for overprinted cards, Dec 15 for non-overprinted. Catalogue, 01283 506200.

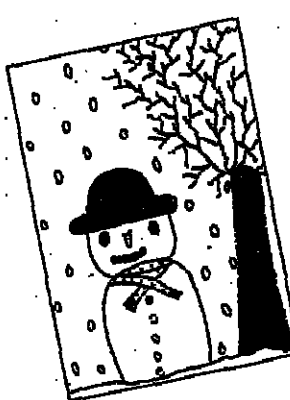
RSPCA
P&P £3.35 on orders under £70, then free. Last order date Dec 15. Catalogue, 01283 506122.

Save the Children
Overprinting £2.50, P&P £3.35 on orders under £70, then free. Last order dates: Nov 28 for overprinted, Dec 15 for non-overprinted. Catalogue, 01283 506600.

The Terrence Higgins Trust
Personal purchase or mail-order from 52-54 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8JL. Payment by cheque must accompany all orders. Mail-order price £3.50 per pack of five, including P&P. No telephone ordering service available. Please make all inquiries in writing.

All profits from the direct sale of Christmas cards featured here goes wholly to the charity concerned.

Detail from "Children's Christmas", Great Ormond St/Barnardos 5 1/2 in x 3 1/2 in. £2.40 for ten



TRAVEL

FRANCE: How to make the most of the clothes run to Paris; and the once-forgotten delights of Toulouse

Haute couture holiday

The voluminous chiffon and taffeta gown swept down over me with a great whoosh. It was dripping with dropped pearls, sequins and wispy bits of net: definitely not the normal gear of a devoted minimalist. But zipped up and observing the effect on my companions as I tripped out of the dressing room wearing the spiky little high heels supplied, my ego zoomed up a good few notches. For all its fussiness, once on, the creation from Loris Azaro's *haute couture* house in the Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré definitely did something.

The quality of the material and the push-up/pull-in effect of most of the styles could not fail to flatter and soon even the most reticent of the party was picking out extravagant ensembles. The Tunisian-born designer's unabashed glamour look brings in Sophie Loren, Claudia Cardinale, Joan Collins and other celebrities who may be underdressed at seeing six noughts (in French francs, that is) on a price tag.

Further along the surprisingly narrow street, Hermès, Pierre Cardin, Christian Lacroix, Louis Feraud and Karl Lagerfeld vied for attention.

For customers with leaner wallets, the options for those on a clothes run to Paris are either the cheaper houses and department stores or the increasingly popular discount shops selling designer labels. Anna Love's establishment, on the Avenue Matignon, offers cut-price clothes designed by Yves Saint Laurent, Chanel and Ungaro, and Miss Griffes, on the Rue de Penhièvre, stocks Chanel, Armani, Valentino and Ungaro. Down the road from Miss Griffes is PWS, selling discounted men's ready-to-wear collections from Ted Lapidus, Christian Dior and Pierre Cardin.

Shopping in Paris is at least as frenetic as in other capital cities, so a haven of relaxation is essential. Ours was the Hotel Royal Monceau on the Avenue Hoche, 200 yards from the Arc de Tri-



French style in 1956 — and 1995 Paris is still the fashion capital

omphée and the Champs-Élysées. Behind the ornate facade, marked out by huge hanging lanterns, is a legacy of the Roaring Twenties, when hotels were built on a grand scale. The foyer, staircases and rooms are all reminiscent of the days before space in-

city centres was measured in square inches. Politicians, including Ho Chi Minh and delegation, royal parties, film stars plus their entourages, and the odd maharajah have stayed there.

Though lots of marble and brocade remain, the service now-

days smacks more of that in America hotels: efficient and customer-friendly.

The bedrooms are quiet and scrumptious and everything is to hand. A test of any hotel is whether the controls for the television and the shower can be operated within a few seconds — they could. And it was good to see a hairdryer, which even top-class French hotels often still forget.

For those eating in, there are two restaurants. Le Jardin, offering provincial food in the hotel's conservatory and garden, and Il Carpaio, specialising in North Italian cuisine. The vast foyer and the Piano Bar make useful meeting places.

Underneath the building is a health spa with a swimming pool, sauna, steam room and gymnasium. Offered a variety of beauty treatments, I chose a facial, which turned out to be superb.

The Grand Heritage Hotel group also owns the smaller and more intimate Hotel Vernet in a nearby side street, Rue Vernet. One of its joys is the Les Élysées restaurant under a Belle Époque glass dome designed by Gustave Eiffel. Not surprisingly, the hotel has built up a large clientele of Americans who return year after year.

We travelled first-class on Eurostar as the quickest and least tiring mode of moving from one capital to another. It took about three hours — taken up largely by the leisurely consumption of three-course meals.

Despite hitches, the service each way was faultless and the only grumbles were directed at inadequate passenger facilities at Waterloo and the Gare du Nord. But the smoothness of the ride and the exhilaration of the high speeds through the French countryside transformed a train ride into an adventure. As we slid gently into Paris, we were in exactly the right mood to hit the shops.

SHEILA GUNN



Parisian elegance — a photograph by Savitry for Picture Post of a look that would stun today

How to get there and where to stay

□ The author travelled from London to Paris on Eurostar as a guest of French Railways. The return fare economy costs from £76 (first-class, from £149). For reservations, phone The Railshop (0345 300 003).

□ She was a guest of the Hotel Royal Monceau, one of the Grand Heritage Hotels group, on Avenue Hoche, within a few minutes' walk of the Arc de Tri-

Triomphe and the Champs-Élysées. All the hotels in the group are historic properties.

□ The hotel offers a package break from £11,950 (about £250) a night for two people sharing a double room. The price includes Continental breakfast and use of Les Thermes health spa.

□ For bookings at the Royal Monceau, phone Grand Heritage Hotels (0181-941 8276).

Intimacy in the capital of serendipity

The greatest asset of Toulouse is the fact that for four centuries most people forgot all about it. The town passed from the 1560s to the 1960s in a Rip van Winkle slumber, impinging on the national consciousness only as the provider of a generation of heretics and of a cholesterol-packed pork sausage.

This obscurity has been its salvation. For when President de Gaulle's Government designated it the powerhouse of France's aeronautical and space industries, it passed almost unscathed through the industrialisation that disfigured its rivals.

So today, though factories, hangars and a new university sprawl alongside the motorway ring road, the town centre, with few buildings above five storeys, retains an intimate feel.

Its inhabitants also retain a pride in the town's past: down any of the windy pedestrianised streets there is a passer-by or shopkeeper happy to offer directions to the next notable sight or to explain the symbolism of the 12-pointed star that decorates balconies and squares alike. This, they are keen to point out, is not France. The star shows that Toulouse is the capital of Occitania, closer by tradition to Barcelona or Naples than to emotionally colder cultures

such as Bordeaux's, making it attractive to Britons seeking a Mediterranean ambience. Air France has now doubled its daily flights from Heathrow to match the two that British Airways runs from Gatwick.

Most holiday packages propose tours of the countryside, the rolling Gascon plain or the snow-capped Pyrenees. But the town can easily sustain a week's sightseeing itself; this is the capital of serendipity.

Courtyards conceal some of the chief glories. Cramped and cobbled, almost invisible from the main street, they are the legacy of a golden age from 1530 to 1590, when the town held a monopoly of the manufacture of pastel crayons. To advertise their wealth, its dye merchants squashed their courtyards beneath overweening towers, magnificently ornamented and rising as high as 30 metres above their neighbours. Toulouse still has about 50 of them, mostly in private hands.

Almost all these showcases are made of stone — another symbol of wealth. Toulouse began as a pauper's town, built from cheap brick by people who couldn't afford to lug stone from the mountains, and it is a pleasing paradox that the rosy, dusky glow of those old bricks now makes such a memorable cityscape. The extraordinary church of



Jacobins church: no smoothness

the Jacobins, for example, was built deliberately of brick by the proselytising Dominican order so that the locals whom they hoped to wean away from Cathar heresy would not be put off by the traditional ecclesiastical smoothness. Bare

How to get there

□ The author travelled to Toulouse as a guest of Air France (0181-742 6600), and stayed at the three-star Grand Hotel Capont (00 33 61 10 70 70).

□ Air France Holidays (0181-742 3377) offers two-night and seven-night breaks at the hotel from £164 to £334 a head and three-night fly-drive weekends from £281 a head. Hôtel du Grand Balcon: 00 33 61 21 48 08.

of decoration, its simplicity is as affecting as the better-known Basilica of St-Sernin, the pilgrim church now almost completely restored.

Behind the Jacobins is an even more seductive cloister, whose green calm lends its fine acoustics to summer music festivals and its shade to dehydrated visitors.

The town is at its best in spring and autumn. The sun brings out the café tables and a brisk wind off the Pyrenees stimulates the appetite to tackle the heavy dishes that locals favour — catch-all cassoulet, crispy duck and the eponymous grilled sausage.

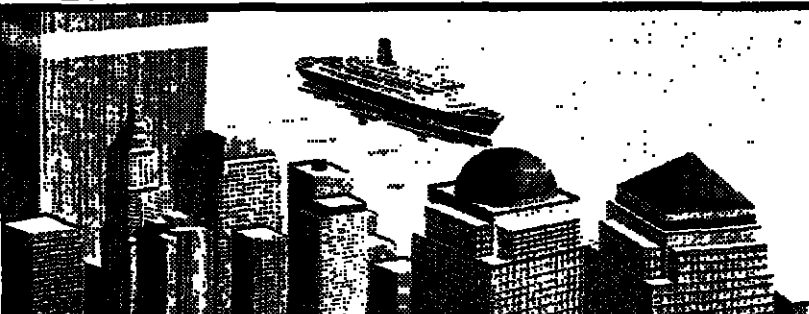
Toulouse also has a name for culture: its symphony orchestra has an international reputation and the collection of medieval carvings in the converted Gothic convent of the Augustines is equally celebrated.

So Toulouse can afford to be relaxed about associations that less confident towns would build into theme parks. Even one of modern literature's most popular names, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, who worked there as an airmail pilot, is hardly mentioned. His room in the Hôtel du Grand Balcon is still to let at £130 a night — decidedly unpriced, with a spartan wash basin and a balcony overlooking the main square.

More fuss is made about air travel of the future. Since the author of *Le Petit Prince* and his colleagues made their pioneering trips across the North African desert in the Twenties, aircraft building has become an international industry — and now the workshops around the airport concentrate on space shuttles and telecommunications. At least two museums mark their achievements. The Aerospatiale company's is full of glitter and gadgets, but the most moving is the Aerothèque in the sheds where the prototypes of Saint-Exupéry's wobbly Devoletines were dreamed up. There are just a few dozen model planes, some old tools, a flickery video and a lot of memories. Even when it's leaping into the future, Toulouse remains attached to its past.

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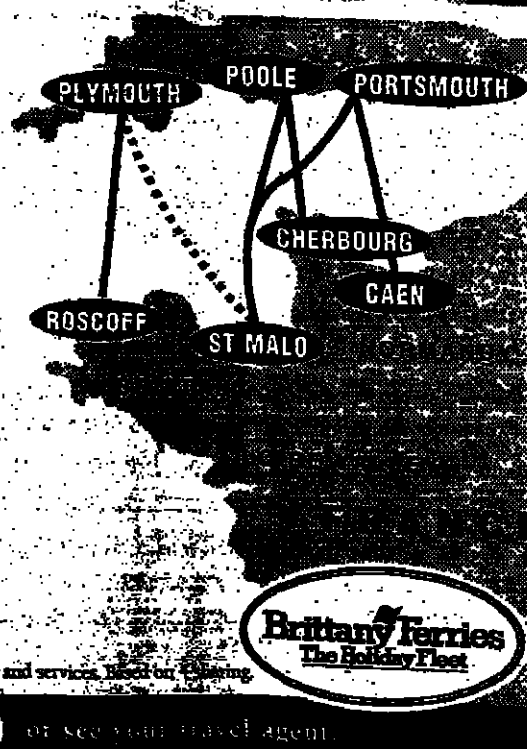
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TRAVEL

17

WALKING: In the mountains of Spain's Sierra de Gredos, and around the placid lakes of Cumbria

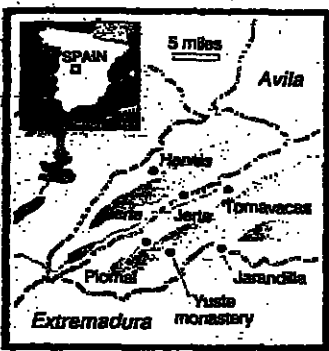
The ancient hillsides where Moors and Christians clashed

After a week's walking in and around the Valle del Jerte in central Spain, I felt I had experienced a rapid course in Spanish history. Everywhere our party walked — in the valley, in the hills and on the ridges with sweeping vistas to Portugal and beyond — we were walking on paths, trodden for centuries by the poor and royalty.

Our guide, Catherine Campbell, told us some of their stories: tales set against a background of granite peaks, green valleys, hillsides covered with cherry blossom, wild flowers blooming between olive and fig trees, beside dry-stone walls and red-roofed farmhouses. This green valley is in the northern corner of Extremadura, nestled between the central and western massifs of the Sierra de Gredos, one of Spain's biggest mountain ranges, a natural barrier which once divided the marauding Muslim Moors from the Christians.

As we walked up the hillsides above the valley on our first day, we passed terraces sculpted from the earth for cultivation, once for vines, now mainly cherries, the valley's staple crop, and olives and figs. These terraces were built 700 years ago by the Moors who, the locals say, named the river Xerete because of the clarity of its waters.

As we left the orchards and olive groves, we climbed up through a wooded area of chestnuts and oaks on stones worn down by centuries of feet belonging to drovers and priests. We didn't meet any clerics but we did discover that the Jerte Valley has been part of an important transhumance route for centuries.



ries: every spring and autumn, herds of sheep and cattle have been, and still are, driven through here to the high pastures of the neighbouring region of Avila.

We ate our picnic lunch on an old stone bridge, the Puente de Los Molinos, overlooking a waterfall, fed by the many gargantas, or streams, flowing down the mountain side.

An hour or so later, we reached Plornal, the highest village in the region, with stunning views of trees covered in pink and white cherry blossom. By the side of the path and growing out of the stone walls were wild flowers — asphodels, lavender, wild mint — and the air was filled with the humming of bees.

After this first, fairly gentle walk, some of us went riding, one of the valley's new tourist attractions. The horses may be working animals, more suitable for terrace farming than tractors, but they — or rather mine — were frisky. The cowboy saddles were as stylish as the cigarette-smoking gauchos who acted as our guides, but coming

down a mountain at right angles, trotting, was really not my idea of fun. Riding was never like this in Cheshire.

Two hours later, I was grateful to taste the local kirsch, distilled from cherries, and eau-de-vie from raspberries, greenages and pears. After that, I could just about have faced the horse again.

The next challenge was the best-known route in the area, El Camino de Carlos Quinto, named after the Holy Roman Emperor who abdicated in favour of his son (the infamous Philip II, whose beard was "singed" by Elizabeth I's navy). Although German by birth, he chose to retire to Spain; he liked its mild climate and wanted to leave behind the trappings of court. Not all the trappings, however. Servants carried him across Spain in a contraption resembling a pram.

We followed his route for the last 18 miles or so, from the village of Tornavacas at the head of the Jerte Valley to Jarandilla, where he stayed with noble friends until his apartments in the nearby Yuste monastery were ready.

We were only carrying rucksacks, not a king, but some of the walking was tough. The first few miles skirted along the edge of the valley, then the path rose and wove round a steep and rocky ridge to a plateau of heather, tussocky grass and marshy patches. We could hear their bells before the herd of goats appeared, and, at the highest points, looked across blue ridges of mountains, with their topping of



The Sierra de Gredos, one of Spain's biggest mountain ranges, once divided the marauding Muslim Moors from the Christians

snow, to the huge spaces of Spain. For the most part, the path was marked with painted signs (which some of the more fundamentalist Greens in Spain have objected to) but at times we had to struggle through great bushes of gorse and heather.

Then came a long descent towards Jarandilla and dinner at the castle — now an elegant parador — with a great, beamed hall of a dining room and a Moorish courtyard with a pool and pineapple palms. Having completed 28km, we felt a smug, though exhausted, sense of achievement.

Another day, we indulged ourselves, driving across the region's highest road to the next valley of Ambroz, for a magnificent lunch of sausage, pimientos, local cheeses, kid and grilled bream in the small

town of Hervás. Time for another history lesson. Hervás has a wonderfully preserved Jewish quarter, with half-timbered, wattle-and-daub houses built in the 15th century. Jews moved here from all over Spain to escape persecution, but eventually, the Inquisition caught up with them and they were forced to convert to Christianity. Now, in a more tolerant era, Hervás is on the tourist trail for

people of many religions. In fact, this whole region of Extremadura, the poorest in Spain, is slowly opening up to tourists. But the Jerte Valley isn't some quaint heritage centre, conflating centuries of history into a marketing spectacular. It is very much a working community: numerous small farms there use every inch of available land for cultivation.

Early one Sunday morning, we

meet a man working his small plot with a hand-plough, as his ancestors would have done. He had come from Madrid for the weekend to visit his parents, and to give his father a helping hand in the field. The ploughman was typical of the visitors who frequent the valley. Madrileno coming for weekends often to visit their families or to enjoy the cherry blossom, the fiestas and the scenery. But most of them don't walk very far so the few people we did meet on the hillsides were farmers and goatherds.

The area is unspoilt, a place to stride out along old trails, to enjoy a richness of flowers and wildlife (I saw a black stork in the nearby National Park of Monfragüe), and, of course, history.

LINDSAY KNIGHT

Valle del Jerte details

□ The author was a guest of Exodus Walking Holidays (0181-675 5550). Eight-day guided tours around the Valle del Jerte cost £390, including seven nights' B&B, five packed lunches, six dinners and the flight to Madrid.

□ In 1996, tours will depart April 27, May 18, October 5 and 26.

Tall tales and deep lakes

Every November in the village of Santon Bridge, close to West Water in west Cumbria, the Bridge Inn holds a competition to find the world's biggest liar. First prize for telling the largest whopper in the most convincing way is £25, a silk tie printed with "The Biggest Liar in the World" and the Jennings Trophy. Rules forbid the participation of politicians and members of the legal profession. Honest.

The walk eastwards on the road out of the nearby village of Nether Wasdale gave me time to consider a tall story: West Water is the busiest and least dramatic of all lakes in the Lake District. If that could be spun out for ten minutes and made to sound plausible there'd be a chance of a silk tie.

A quarter of a mile out of Nether Wasdale, past the phone box perched into a gap in the dry-stone wall and past the tiny cemetery where two of the graves are adorned with pictures of West Water, the walk turns right towards Santon Bridge (two miles), crosses a small hump over the River Irth and then veers left up a farm track which is signposted "Public footpath-lake foot".

Ahead are the 1,700ft high West Water screes. The steep,



West Water is England's deepest lake

story slopes that plunge straight into England's deepest lake are one of the most majestic sights in the whole of the Lake District. During the five miles of the walk this extraordinary, if somewhat brooding, presence never leaves you.

Skirt the buildings of Eastwaite farm, carry on along the track and, at the point where it starts to cross a meadow, go through the gate, left down the side of the field

and make for the arched stone Lund bridge straight ahead. Over the bridge, take the path to the right marked "Youth hostel" into the National Trust property of Low Wood. This is the most delightful stretch of the two-and-a-half hour walk because here are silver birch, ash, rowan, oak, sycamore, beech, Norway spruce, Scotch pine and red squirrels. Through the trees are the clear waters of the lake and the towering screes be-

yond. Initially, the only sound is the babble of the Irth but, as you walk further, there is a faint humming noise emanating from a stone building near the shore. This is a pumping station which helps deliver up to four million gallons of water a day to British Nuclear Fuels at Sellafield, a few miles away. The water from the 257ft deep lake is used to cool spent nuclear fuel rods.

About an hour after setting off from Nether Wasdale I

rested on a bench at the end of West Water, a solitary walker with this panorama before me, the three-mile lake stretching towards the north east and the slopes of Great Gable (2,949ft), Kirk Fell (2,630ft), Yewbarrow (2,058ft) and other fells plainly visible in the distance.

At the other end of the lake lies Wasdale Head, which some say has the smallest church in England. It is also a centre for climbing in this part of the Lake District. Scafell Pike (3,206ft), the highest peak in England, being close by.

The path continues around the shore line in front of Wasdale Hall. Now a youth hostel, the large, partly half-timbered house was built in 1839 for Stansfeld Rawson, a Yorkshire banker and a prodigious planter of trees in this part of the valley.

More than 300,000 trees were planted between 1811 and 1813 says Janet Martin, author of an article on Wasdale Hall for the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

Rawson also managed to acquire wood panelling from York Minster after a fire there in 1829. Some of the panelling

found its way into the small 16th-century church at Nether Wasdale, where you can see George III's coat of arms on one wall and a number of ornate ceiling bosses. The church is open during the day.

After Wasdale Hall, the walk follows the shore opposite the screes for about three-quarters of a mile, first along a path and then over a stone wall and on to the road.

At the first junction you come to, turn left and then, after the bridge at Greendale, turn immediately left again and walk along the public bridleway towards Galesyke and Strands.

From here it is about a mile and a quarter in a south-westerly direction through woods and across open coun-

try (for just a few steps the path became a little boggy) until you pick up the road again. Turn right there, and head back towards Nether Wasdale. A sign on a tree reassures you that it is one kilometre to the Strands Hotel.

Troop back though Nether Wasdale, which was once a best-kept small village in the Copeland Council area, and you will pass the maypole which has stood near the church since 1897, commemorating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. It is still used every May.

The last thing I did was to go in search of Will Rison's grave. He was the Wasdale publican who told such amazing stories that, even 105 years after his death, he, too, has his own memorial. It's called the Biggest Liar in the World competition.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

Fact file

- The walk is number 12 in the AA/OS Ordnance Survey Leisure Guide Lake District, price £9.99.
- The Biggest Liar in the World competition, Thurs, Nov 16, 7.30pm, at the Bridge Inn, Santon Bridge, Cumbria. £4. Competition details, 01946 67575. The Inn (01946 26221) is open all day (no meals 2.30-4.30pm). B&B: single £25-£29.50, double £29.50-£39.50.
- West Water youth hostel, Wasdale Hall (01946 26222). £8 for over-18s, £5.35 for under-18s. Closed Nov 4 until Christmas, except for groups.
- The Strands Hotel, Nether Wasdale (01946 26237). Open evenings and lunchtimes at weekends. Phone for B&B rates.

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Answers from page 25

HAUT-BRION
(c) In full Chateau Haut-Brion, a variety of fine quality claret, a vinous toponym from the estate, in the commune of Pessac, near Bordeaux, said to have been founded by an Irish O'Brien. Samuel Pepys, Diary, 10 April, 1663: "Here drank a sort of French wine, called Ho Bryan, that hath a good and most particular taste that I never met with."

MUCHACHO

(b) A boy, young man, male servant, from the Spanish. Muchacha is a girl. "The followers of the camps, pages and muchachos, who must be chosen able to fight in a day of service, for the defence of themselves and their masters' baggage."

LUDIA

(a) A bull-fight, especially the earlier stages in which the

cuadrilla prepare the bull for the faena, the process whereby the torero obliges the bull to conform to his movements. Lidia in Spanish is literally "a fight". So lidiador, a torero considered as controlling the actions of the picadors, and the responses of the bull.

JADAM

(a) A type of silver or brass niello ware from the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra, used especially for decorating belt buckles. "The art is said to have come from Sumatra. In Malaya jadam work was used mostly for the production of decorated waist buckles."

A Special Announcement

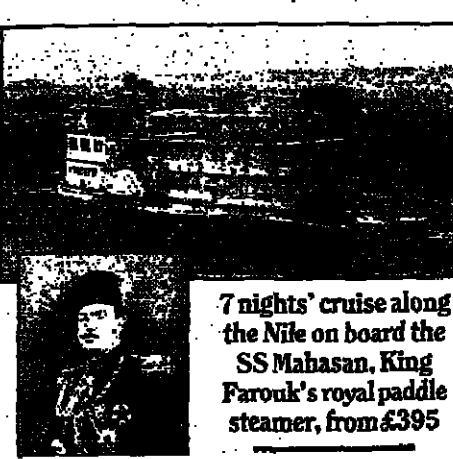
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TRAVEL

AFRICA: Julia Llewellyn Smith takes to the road with a group of overlanders ...

The truck of revelations

Night had fallen on the ancient ruins of Great Zimbabwe, the monkeys were sleeping in the trees and the cold sky was bright with the stars of the southern hemisphere. "I have done so many new things since I came to Africa," said Sarah, as we sat huddled around the campfire. Such as what, I asked excitedly. Had she made a fire by rubbing two sticks together, concocted healing balms from herbs and tracked wild animals through the veld? "No, I've eaten powdered milk and luncheon meat and margarine," she said. "They're delicious. It's been a revelation."

Sarah was a nurse from Devon and an "overlander", one of our group of 20 travelling across Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia in a Mercedes-Benz truck. Every year thousands of travellers spend from three weeks to six months bumping along Third-World dirt roads, camping in the bush and existing on a diet of Marmite, corned beef and baked beans. Overlanders, the brochures promise, get to see the real Africa/Asia/South America and find adventure.

None of these promises impressed me. The "real" experience, I suspected, would mean squalor, which any sane African would be doing his or her best to escape. Contact with the locals would be minimal; a friend who made a similar journey in South America confided that in four months she had learnt every Australian drinking song but nothing about Andean culture. Yet overlanding is by far the cheapest way to see a large amount of a continent for a (comparatively) small amount of money. For the lone or inexperienced traveller it is a safe introduction to far-off and potentially hostile places. Independent travellers spend hours studying bus timetables, bank opening hours and hitching to campsites. On a truck the driver deals with the bureaucracy, while you need only pack away your company-provided tent, then be driven to your next destination.

In the end the plus points, added to an irresistible itinerary from Harare through the Okavango Delta in Botswana to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, won me over. Nonetheless, my image of my fellow travellers filled me with dread. Either, I decided, they would be Dutch hippies who would sing *Kumbaya* around the campfire, or they would be rowdy Kiwis. Instead, I ended up with a surprisingly amenable bunch, made up of two extremely efficient drivers, nine Brits, two Aussies, two Canadians, one American, one Swiss and four New Zealanders. There were 12 women to five men, which led to one biter cat fight, and there was, for a time, a rumour of a thief on board but, as the journey continued, everyone got on better and better.

Most passengers were in their twenties, between jobs or courses and, usually, love affairs. The youngest, Fiona, a 20-year-old from Yorkshire, was also probably the most sensible. She had been on the truck for six months, driving all the way from London, via various hell spots such as Mali, Nigeria and Ebola-infected Zaire, where one passenger fell in a sewer and had to fly home for skin grafts.

The least sensible was a Canadian teacher who managed to spoil every view by sneaking up behind people and bellowing: "Isn't this a great spot?" She would then compare it to another, greater spot in Indonesia, Chile or Bangladesh. She complained endlessly that we never met any "real Africans", which she compensated for by flirting with every border guard.



Travellers take a shine to the sun as the all-terrain truck easily traverses the Africa that more conventional package tourists do not always see

Other overlanders included Mark, an Australian computer programmer, whose first words to me were: "Isn't it amazing how many blacks there are in Africa?" There was Claudia from Switzerland, who after three days' bush camping still sported dazzling white socks. And Cliff, an American in his forties, had a fantastic collection of drip-dry shirts, a bizarre obsession with dung and a tendency to lurk in the bushes with his torch after dark.

Each person was assigned a "job". Cliff's was to unload the lockers every morning and evening. We had half an hour to get out whatever we needed for the next 12 hours before our bags disappeared again.

Cliff was not happy when one night we wangled an extra five minutes. "Tomorrow," he warned us, "you'll only have 25." I was truck cleaner, a cushy number, compared with the job which involved making a fire every evening and disposing of the rubbish.

We took turns to shop, within the constraints of a ridiculously small budget, in groups of three and cooked what we bought over a wooden fire. The results, after a barely edible first-night spaghetti

carbonara, were good. Another group would wash up and everyone else's job was to "flap" the plates dry, by waving them vigorously in the air, to the mirth of passengers with rival overland trucks.

Flapping apart, I didn't see another truck that rivalled ours for robustness, security and comfort. There was an on-board library, roof seats to top up our tans, and vast store cupboards full of packet cheese sauce, Spam and reconstituted vegetables.

We were usually filthy. "You look like a character from *Tenaka*," I was told after a particularly energetic tent-pitching session. After three days without a proper wash I was feeling rather proud of my tan, then I got in the bath at the Windhoek camp ground and saw it all go down the plughole. We were moved by the wonders of Africa but nothing could invoke a group frenzy like a rumour that there might be a laundrette and hot showers at our next campsite.

Which is not to say that Africa was not glorious. Almost every day brought an unforgettable experience. In Zimbabwe we trekked rhinos through the bush in the Matsi

bos National Park and camped in the ruins of Great Zimbabwe, the oldest city in sub-Saharan Africa. In Botswana we camped in salt pans on the edge of the Kalahari, where the grey milky chalk of the land blends imperceptibly with the sky, creating a sensation of infinity.

We punted through the papyrus and lilies of the Okavango Delta, dodging angry hippos and lazy crocs, and camped on one of the islands, surrounded by elephants and lions. I left the truck in Windhoek, a bizarre city which bears more relation to Frankfurt than to Africa, while the others carried on to explore Namibia's Skeleton Coast and the Etosha game park, before returning to Harare via Victoria Falls.

We didn't meet many Africans and we didn't (except for the angry hippos and a night with a mad South African in Windhoek) have many adventures. But the truck provided constant entertainment and gossip, we saw some of the most inspiring sights in the world and, I discovered, after several hour-long baths on my return, I had managed to get a fine tan.

How to get there

- The author was a guest of Dragonair, Camp Green, Kenton Rd, Debenham, Suffolk IP14 6LA (01728 861133) and Air Namibia (0181-944 6181).
- The five-week Bushlands of the Kalahari and Namibia trip costs between £960 and £1,115, with a kitty of £215 to £265. A UK-Cape Town trip of just over 30 weeks costs £3,950 (kitty £930). Dragonair also covers South America and Asia.
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... and Justin Cartwright sends a dispatch from the battlefield where a French prince died in ignominy

Coffee time on the Zulu killing field

Earlier this year, after watching England play rugby against Argentina in Durban, I drove into Zululand and spent the night at a lodge at Fugitive's Drift, the place where, in 1879, the few survivors of Isandlwana, the site of one of Britain's worst colonial defeats, managed to cross to Natal. It is upstream from Rorke's Drift (inspiration for the film *Zulu*) on the Buffalo River. There are few more resonant places in British colonial history. And not far away is another place, the Tshotshosi River ("The wandering river" in Zulu), which also reverberates in French history.

At Fugitive's Drift 50 men escaped the slaughter of a large British force at Isandlwana by the Zulu. A few months later, near the Tshotshosi River, four men, part of a reconnaissance party, were killed by the Zulu. They were a local guide, troopers Abel and Rogers and an observer of the Zulu War, Louis Napoleon, the Prince Imperial.

For many years now I have thought this one of the most extraordinary stories of the era of colonialism.

The Prince Imperial, at 23 the apple of his mother the Empress Eugenie's eye, was killed largely, it must be said, as a result of his own negligence.

The British Army, under Lord Chelmsford, who had suffered greatly as a result of Isandlwana and his rash predictions ("the main problem will be to get the blighters to fight"), was thrown into confusion and panic.

This absurd war had cost thousands of lives, slaughtered many Zulus, and now, against the express instructions of the Duke of Cambridge, the prince had been allowed to stray into a position of danger. In some ways it was worse than the disaster of Isandlwana. The last direct descendant of Napoleon Bonaparte was dead, with 14 or so

stab wounds, abandoned in a gully by his British companions, most of whom ran away when they were supposed to be looking after him. Troopers Abel and Rogers barely get a mention, but they too were killed, one shot, one speared. As for the guide, his name is unknown.

Finding the spot where the prince died was not easy. A succession of dusty roads through the heart of Zululand finally led to a small grove of trees and a simple stone cross donated by Queen Victoria. Behind the cross, tucked against the back wall, are two even more modest memorials: here are buried the troopers Abel and Rogers. These two are the Rosenkrantz and Childers of this affair. The body of the prince was shipped to England.

An elderly woman emerged from a hut nearby with the visitors' book.

The comments in French suggest a spiritual communion. I wrote in dubious French: "Incroyable de le voir." It is the sort of place which encourages whimsy.

In the original reports of the affair, the area is described as having thick reeds and vegetation. No more. The river and the donga, or gully, where the prince defended himself with an assegai plucked from his thigh, is now completely open. Louis Napoleon had given up trying to run after his fast disappearing companions, who were being led at a gallop by Lt Brenton Carey.

It is hard to imagine how the Zulus could have crept up on the party, which was enjoying coffee while the prince conversed with Lt Carey. Today any Zulus would be visible at 500 yards. But the little grove of trees planted on Eugenie's instruction stands tall and green. As far as I could see they were cypresses and yews. I wondered why, if after 115 years these trees are still there despite the depredations of wood choppers, the rest of the

landscape, leading two miles up to a hill where Lt Carey finally halted in his flight is so bare. Zululand, despite the beauty and sweep of its hills, is a rural stum. During the Zulu War there were no more than 300,000 Zulus; there are now about six million. Trees probably have little future.

From the lodge at Fugitive's Drift I walked down to the grave of Lieutenants Melville and Coghill, the two men who saved the colour of the 1/24th Regiment when Isandlwana was overrun. Against all the odds, they reached the Natal bank of the river only to be killed there, possibly by local Zulus. The evidence for this is said to be that they were not disembowelled, as was the practice on the other side.

The colour had floated down the Buffalo River and was retrieved to great rejoicing a few days later by a young soldier-naturalist, a man so interested in beetles that he fell to his knees to examine one while leading an attack



How *The Illustrated London News* saw the death of the French Prince Imperial at the hands of Zulu warriors in 1879 after British troops were massacred at Isandlwana

against a Zulu chieftain. In this episode I think you can see some of the strands of the high period of Empire, in the fetishism of the colour (which now hangs, tattered and water-stained, in Brecon, in the interest in natural history and in the bravery of the soldiers, although reports describe the soldiers as society's dregs).

This grave, on a hillside a few hundred yards above the Drift, is crowned by a small cross donated by Sir Barle Frere, governor of Natal. The site has not changed since the Zulu War; down below in the river two women were washing. The sun was setting. Melville and Coghill were both awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously, the first such awards. It was impossible, standing there, not to be caught up in the mythology while all too aware that the interpretation of history in South Africa is undergoing overdue re-evaluation.

Fugitive's Drift is on a farm and nature reserve owned by David and Nicola Rattray. They have six cottages providing comfortable accommodation and hearty food in a wonderful setting along the Buffalo River. They have introduced giraffe and antelope to land an ingredient of ecotourism.

David Rattray has immersed himself in the Zulu War. He speaks Zulu fluently and he has become just renowned for his battlefield tours. Two or three hours with him on the Isandlwana hills, above the white cairns of

graves and the monuments scattered around to mark almost everything but the Zulu deaths, is a memorable and affecting experience.

He recreates the scene with both academic and personal knowledge, the latter gleaned from hundreds of hours of conversations with the sons of the Zulu commanders. He quotes from letters and diaries, and the recollections of the Zulu generals. It is easy to believe that this is, as he says, the best-preserved battlefield in British military history, and the site of one of the worst disasters.

Dinner is taken communally in a dining room which is itself a museum, hung with assegais, huggles and pictures. Also at the table were a former ambassador to Japan and his lady, a couple just up from Durban for a few days, and a potato farmer from Hereford, on his way to see some rugby with his young family. It was surprisingly cold and a log fire was crackling. Without in any way imposing his considerable expertise, David Rattray is a delightful host. His wife, whom he refers to, for no obvious reason, as "Porkpie", is equally charming.

In my comfortable cottage late at night with my own fire glowing, I reflected on the melancholy and grandeur of the Zulu nation, and I wondered whether the current obsessions of the Inkatha leadership cannot be traced back to the Zulu War.

● *Justin Cartwright's* novel, *In Every Face I Meet* (Sceptre, £15.99), has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

● *Fugitive's Drift Lodge, Rorke's Drift, Natal* (03425) 843; fax: 0341 23319. Bookings can also be made through Abercrombie and Kent (01753 501000), R350 (about £65 a night, single, full board or £45 sharing).

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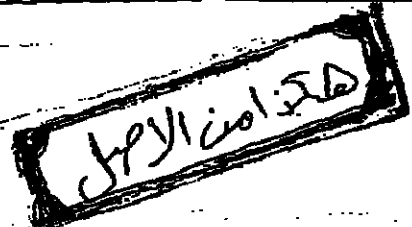
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SKIING: Why North America has suddenly become so popular, despite higher prices. Doug Sager reports

Warm welcome on the statesides



The new British favourite: Breckenridge in Colorado

The skiing world is getting bigger. Japan's 300 ski areas have now been chronicled in a guidebook, *Ski Japan*, by T. R. Reid. The Eagle Ski Club offers ski tours to the Atlas mountains in Morocco. And some areas of Australia and New Zealand are now better known for their skiing than their Chardonnays.

But none of these skiing nations merits coverage in either of Britain's most comprehensive resort guidebooks. However, *The Good Skiing Guide* and *Where to Ski* give extensive coverage to North America.

European resort directors seem unaware of the competition from across the Atlantic. Skiers say that the service, snow and safety in North America are well worth the higher price and longer flight.

The budget skier may still find it hard to decide between Andorra and Austria. But the upper end of the market has much wider geography to choose from: between the Alps and North America in general, and between Colorado and Canada in particular. Such skiers are more concerned that their holiday will not be a washout than they are with shaving percentages.

Although some North American resorts appear in brochures at prices that are comparable to holidays in France or Switzerland, these prices are based on four persons sharing a hotel room and do not include meals. Roughly speaking, most skiers should expect to pay 20-30 per cent more for America than the Alps but, perhaps, only 10-20 per cent more for Canada. No one knows for sure how many of us go skiing, as the industry only counts package-tour clients. Best estimates are

between 500,000 and 750,000, including school parties. The North American market comprises only about 30,000 skiers, but it attracts a high percentage of Britain's ski-tour operators. The importance of the Atlantic connection was underscored this year when Thomson reversed policy by relaunching its American programme after a season of trying to get by in Europe alone.

The debate need not be a question of America or Europe only. Despite diehards who return to the same resort twenty years running, most skiers thrive on variety. An informal poll of skiers who visited North America last winter indicated that most of them had also made at least one other ski trip to the Alps in the same season.

North American skiing made its international breakthrough in 1988-1990, when the snow in the Alps was dreadful and the dollar was cheap. Within that two-year period the number of Britons skiing in North America jumped from 2,000 to 20,000. The most amazing discovery they made was that they were welcome.

"Have a nice day," has become an old joke. But it bears being sneered at in French or grunted at in German. The rudeness of resort personnel across the Alps has been officially recognised by national tourism officials, most recently by the Swiss, who have targeted what they call "the welcome" as one of the country's leading tourism problems.

In North America, resort employees are routinely drug-tested, subject to strict dress codes and graded according to their demeanour. At Blackcomb in Canada, arguably the best-managed resort



Guaranteed snow and excellent safety are the big attractions for well-heeled skiers

in North America and consistently voted the continent's number one overall resort by American skiers, lift employees are hired for a maximum of two seasons, lest they burn out their courtesy resources. British visits to Blackcomb increased by 54 per cent last winter.

Although most Britons going to North America ski in the United States, and at Breckenridge in Colorado in particular, Canada is the hottest growth market. It now attracts 40 per cent of all North American trade, with most skiers attracted to the Banff area.

Canada's advantages include an easier flight and transfer compared with most American resorts, a cheaper dollar and more impressive scenery.

Many visitors to Colorado are disappointed by the flat panorama that the Rockies present there. It is only up north, especially around Banff, that the Rockies rival

the Alps. At Lake Louise, Canada's largest ski area, hanging glaciers on black granite walls loom over a postcard-perfect lake across the shores from the 550-room Château Lake Louise hotel.

Canada's chateau hotels, most dating from the completion of the Canadian Pacific railroad at the end of the last century, are a treat. Europe's palace hotels are prohibitively expensive for the average skier. But in Banff, Lake Louise and Jasper, winter is off-season. The 850-room Scottish-baronial Banff Springs, for example, offers winter specials, including ski passes, at prices equivalent to a B&B in Austria.

European skiers often complain that American resorts are too small. Used to vast interconnected ski regions like the Trois Vallées in France, into which six average-sized American resorts could fit, skiers who expect hundreds of

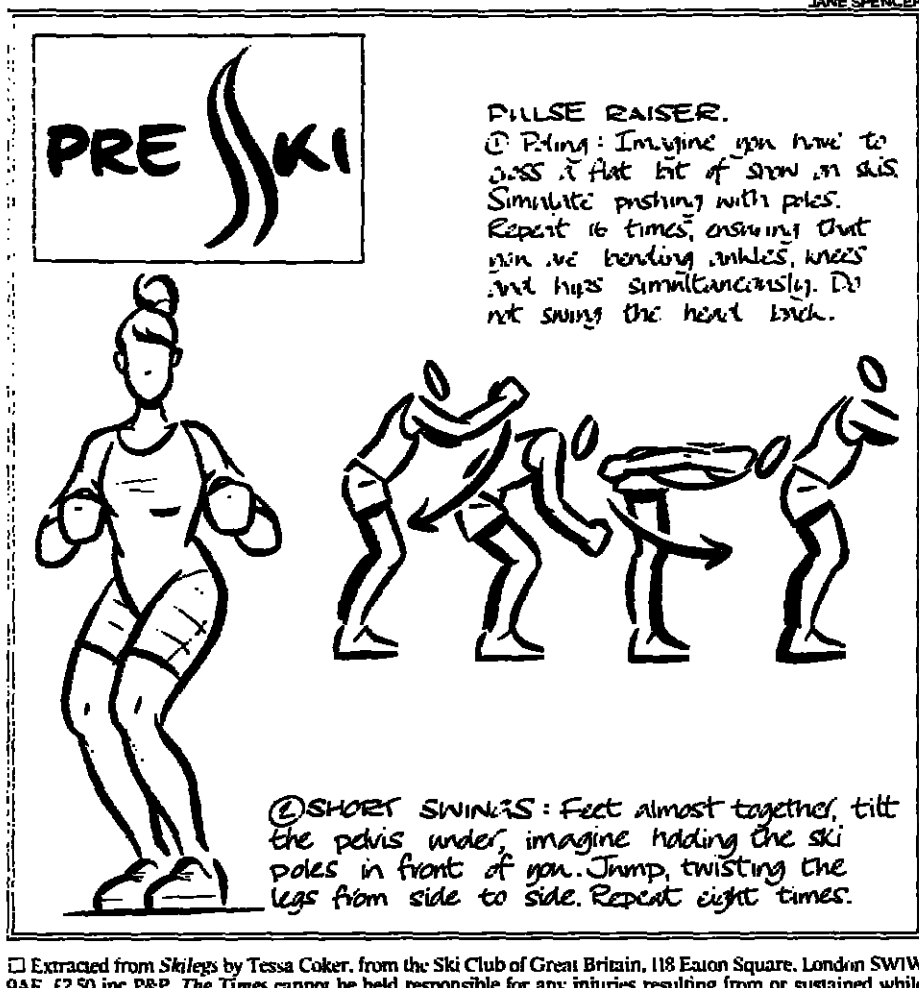
kilometres of groomed trails and unlimited expanses of ungroomed off-piste skiing will feel constrained by roped-off "out of bounds" and "closed" signs in North America.

The compensation is that skiing everywhere in North America is miles safer than in the Alps. American resorts police "slow skiing" zones in high-density areas to prevent collisions, and entertain children in their own sectors closed to boy racers. Avalanche deaths in the Alps run up to 200 per year, at least ten times the American toll.

Skiing in Canada, in terms of safety and snow, is little different from the US. The exception, for the hard-core skier, is Whistler resort, where the two interconnected mountains, Whistler and Blackcomb, with their three glacier skiing areas, come closest to approaching the European off-piste ethos. But it is in wilderness skiing that Canada really soars above the Alps, with a



Alpine ski resort staff's rudeness is legendary, while Americans are rigorously polite



Excerpted from *Skilogs* by Tessa Coker, from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Euston Square, London SW1W 9AF, £2.50 inc P&P. The Times cannot be held responsible for any injuries resulting from or sustained while carrying out the exercises and movements described above.

helicopter skiing terrain larger than all the resorts in Europe put together, and with the finest quality powder snow in the world.

Guaranteed snow is what brought Britons to North America in the first place. And even in excellent years in the Alps, like last year, North America tends to pile it higher. Zermatt, Verbier and Chamonix all called it quits in early May last season.

Squaw Valley, Mammoth

and Arapahoe Basin were all skiing large areas on American Independence Day in July.

What North America lacks is rustic mountain inns, and the variety of Alpine regional cuisine and local patois that are found in them. The chalet party concept too, invented by the British, is virtually unknown across the Atlantic. So, mercifully, are lift queues; some American resorts guaranteeing a full refund if queues are longer than ten

minutes. When American skiers come to the Alps, aside from noticing the language barrier and remarking upon the slowness of the chairlifts, they usually show positive delight at the differences they discover.

Too much British criticism has centred on the hot-dog-versus-haute-cuisine divide. Many visitors will find it refreshing that in North America they ski for fun rather than for food.



Ski Whistler/Blackcomb with Ski Thomson this winter for breathtaking skiing - some wicked couloirs for experts and plenty of cruising slopes for the morning after. Fly into Vancouver and stay at the 4T Fairways Hotel for 7 nights from only £486 in January.

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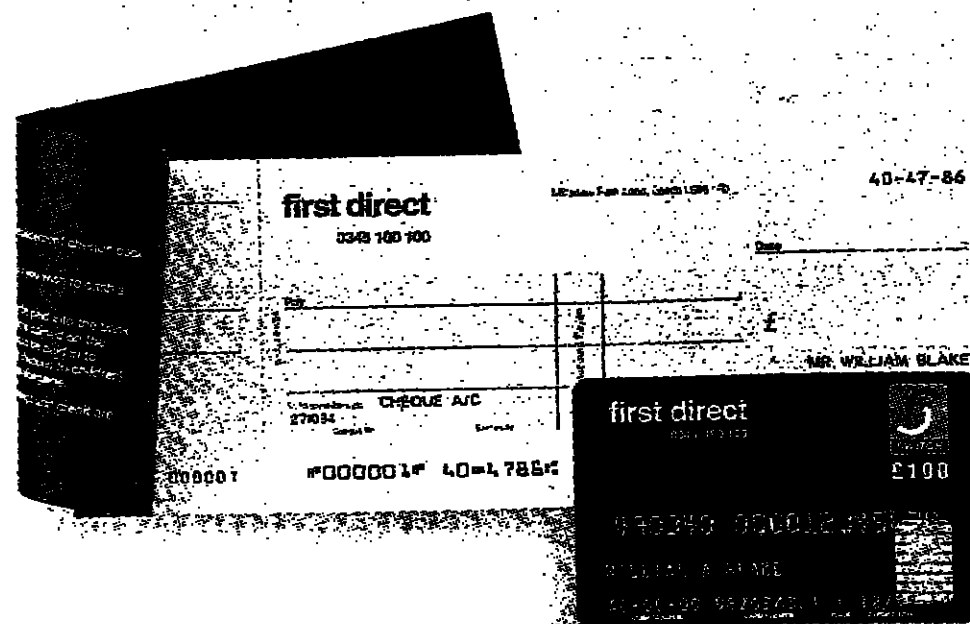
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*Survey undertaken by NOP Market Research among 1,000 randomly selected current account customers. Interviews were conducted by telephone between 31 October 1994 and 16 November 1994. Enquirers must be aged 18 or over. In order to safeguard our customers, certain transactions may require written confirmation. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. Before agreeing to lend you money, we will want to make sure you can repay us. For written details of our services write to First Direct, Freepost HK16, Leeds LS98 2RS. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc.



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Norman Wisdom's comic life on the road

Page 10



Win a Ford Galaxy: Motor Show contest

Page 3



SATURDAY OCTOBER 14 1995

The most exciting sight on four wheels

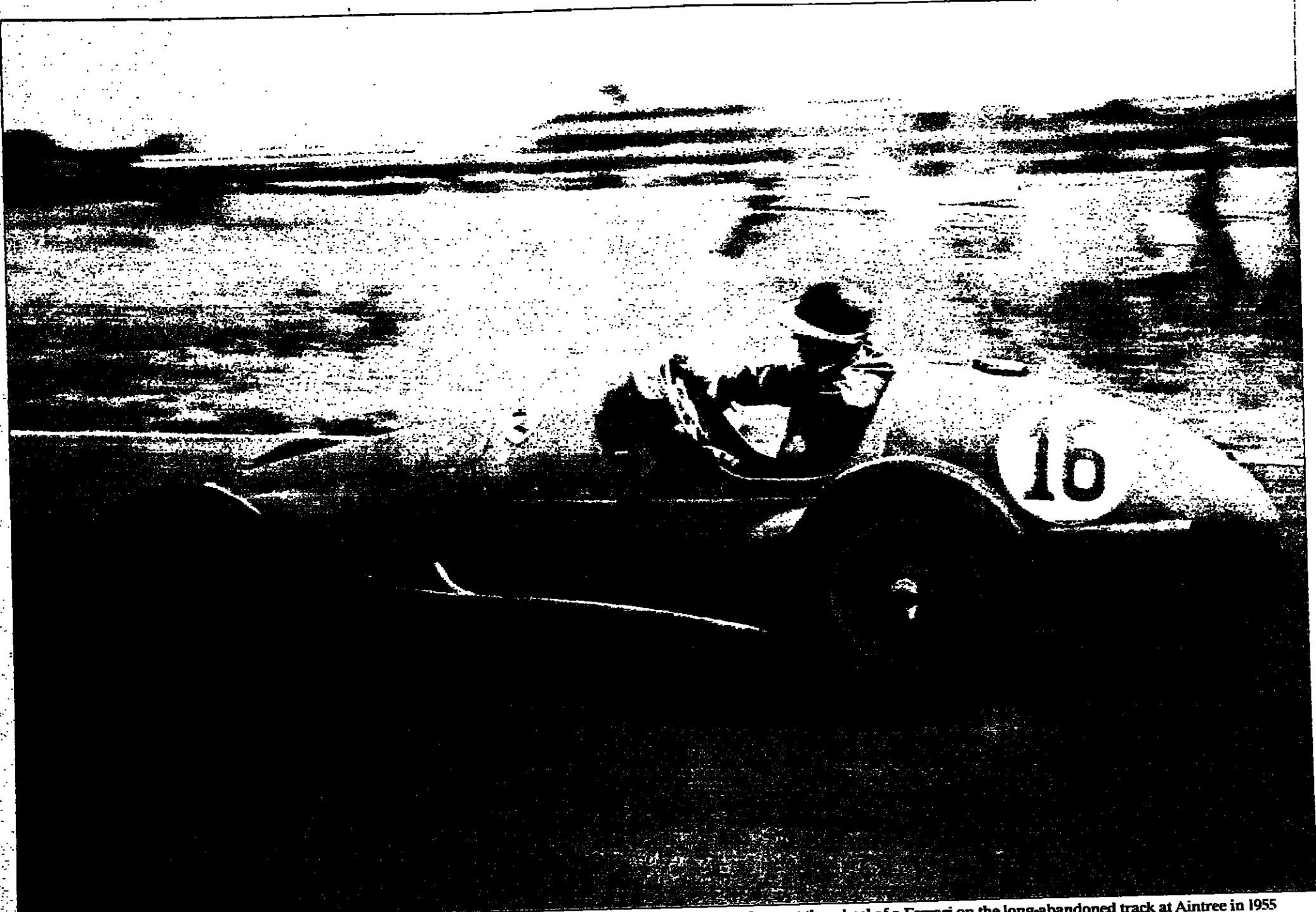
Classic photographs of the Ferrari can be yours — at a price, says Kevin Eason

The dark slash of tyre tracks underlined the drama of the moment. An Opel competing in the 1972 Targa Florio through Sicily had slithered into a roadside wall, scattering spectators but hitting one, who was left writhing in agony with a broken leg. The crowd gathered around to help — until a wall of cylinders, as familiar to the thousands of tifosi as the melodies of Verdi or Puccini, screamed for attention.

One of the crowd spotted the unmistakable red Ferrari — and the ailing spectator was left alone with his pain while everyone jumped back on to the wall to see the car hurtle past.

No car on earth inspires the devotion of a Ferrari on the track, a devotion celebrated in *Ferrari in Camera*, published next week. The stunning photographs are by internationally renowned photographer Geoff Goddard, the words by Doug Nye. But this is less a book and more of an expensive love letter extolling the virtues of one of the most romantic marques in the world, with more grand prix victories than

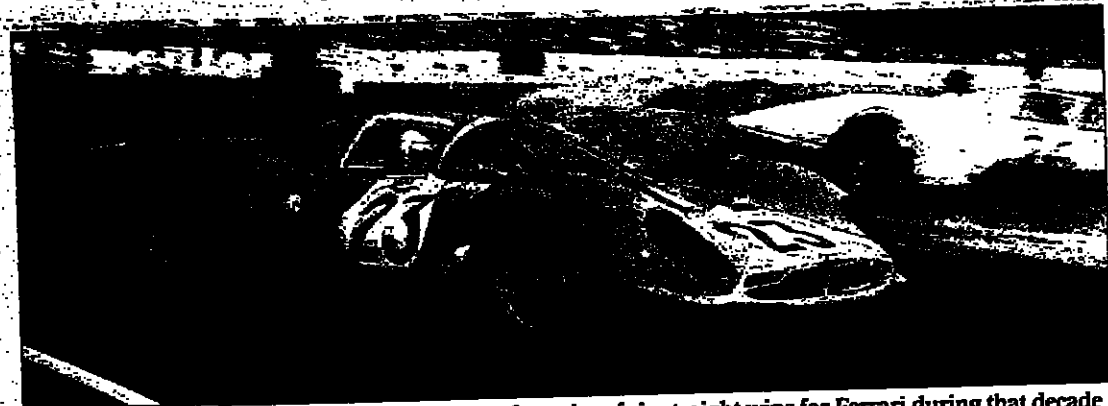
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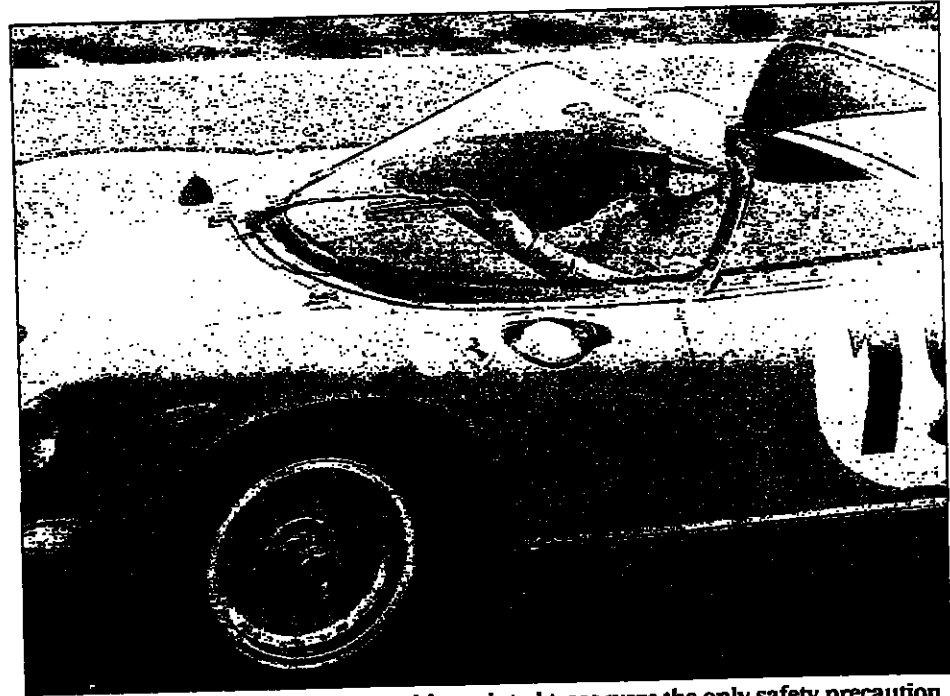
Mike Hawthorn, one of Britain's most celebrated racing drivers — and a favourite of Enzo, the founder — at the wheel of a Ferrari on the long-abandoned track at Aintree in 1955

FERRARI's latest model, the F50, is claimed to be the fastest road-going car ever, with a top speed of 202mph and the ability to accelerate from 0 to 60mph in 3.8 seconds. It is a direct descendant of the company's Formula One racing cars, using a variant of the renowned V12 engine. At £300,000, it is also one of the most expensive vehicles in the world.

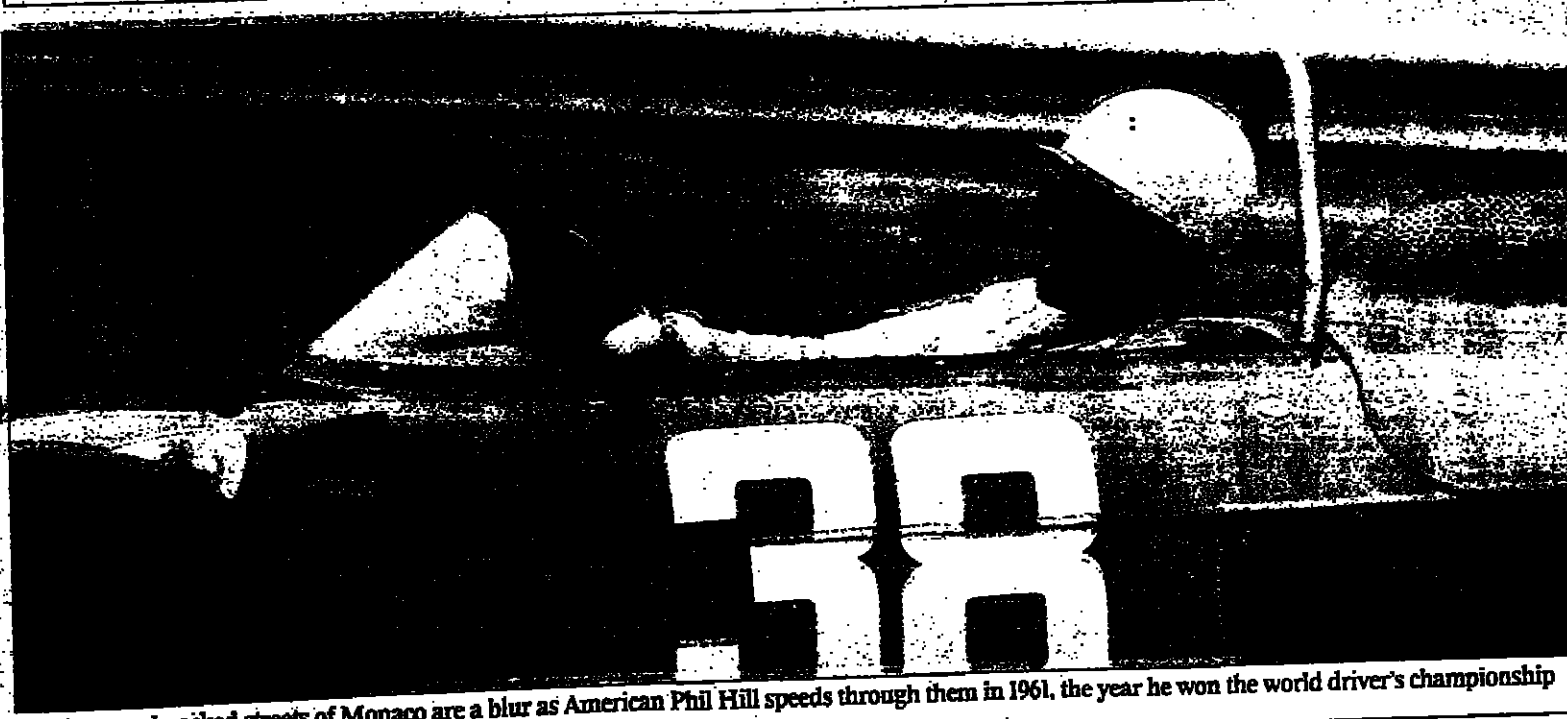
British enthusiasts will get their first glimpse of it at the London Motor Show which opens at Earls Court next Thursday. It will be featured along with a host of other new cars in next Saturday's special Motor Show edition of CAR 95. For further details of our show coverage and reader offers see Page 3.



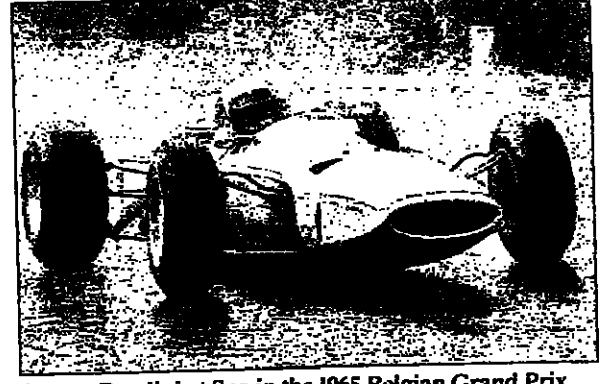
Dick Attwood at Le Mans in 1967 — the scene of a series of six straight wins for Ferrari during that decade



John Surtees at Le Mans in 1964: white-painted trees were the only safety precaution



The crowd-packed streets of Monaco are a blur as American Phil Hill speeds through them in 1961, the year he won the world driver's championship



A Ferrari's air intake, left, and Lorenzo Bandini at Spa in the 1965 Belgian Grand Prix

Would you describe a Picasso as second-hand?



For more information, call 0800 010107

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON
A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks between the Lea Valley Viaduct and Fore Street, which cause regular delays, especially westbound in the morning.
A406 North Circular Road, East Finchley. Down to one lane in parts between the A1 and the A1000 for major roadworks.
A2 New Cross Road, New Cross Roadworks on the east-bound carriageway outside New Cross Gate Underground station cause regular delays, especially in the afternoon.
A102 Blackwall Tunnel, northbound. One lane closed northbound for roadworks approaching the Combe Lane flyover cause regular London-bound delays in the morning.
A102 Blackwall Tunnel, northbound. Closed in both directions this weekend under the A13 for major improvement work. Every weekend from 9pm Friday until 9pm Sunday.
London Motor Show, Earls Court. Runs from October 19 to 29. Expect heavy congestion along the A4 and in the Earls Court one-way system.

● SOUTH EAST
M25 Surrey. Two sets of roadworks and lane closures, between J6 and J8 (Godstone-Reigate) and J9 to J10 (Leatherhead-A3), with additional overnight restrictions, which often cause delays.
A287 near Fleet, Hampshire. Major roadworks with temporary traffic lights between the Mill Lane dual carriageway and M11 Essex. Major repair work due to start on October 15, with a contraflow between junctions 6 and 7 (M25-Harlow).

● SOUTH WEST
M5 Avon. Roadworks both ways between J20 and J21 (Almondsbury-Aust) for work on the new M49 second Severn crossing. Restrictions increase overnight and at weekends, when there can be long delays.
M4 Avon. Reduced to one lane in each direction through a contraflow between junctions 20 and 21 (near Almondsbury) for work on the new second Severn crossing.
M5 Gloucestershire. Contraflow between J11 and J12 (Cheltenham-Gloucester).
A35 Dorset. Major roadworks between Morecombek and Charnmouth, with traffic reduced to a single lane.
Sherborne, Dorset. The town centre is closed off from 8pm Sunday until 1am Tuesday for the annual Pack Fair.
A3078 Probus, Cornwall. Road closed for roadworks from the A390 junction.
A345 Wiltshire. High Street, Marlborough is closed until Sunday morning for the annual Mop Fair.

● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA
M6 West Midlands. Contraflow between J5 and J6 (A452-A384) with three narrow lanes each way and speed restrictions.
A441 Birmingham. Pershore Road, Edgbaston is closed for out of city traffic between Priory Road and Peble Mill Road.
M50 Hereford & Worcester. Major roadworks and a contraflow between junctions 1 and 2 (Tewkesbury-Lechlery).
A14 Suffolk. Major roadworks and a contraflow between Ipswich and Felixstowe.
A47 Terrington St John, Norfolk. Down to one lane eastbound for bypass construction work, with additional temporary lights during the day.
Cambridgeshire. The Autumn Air Show takes place at the Duxford Imperial War Museum on Sunday. Expect congestion on the A505 & M11 nearby.
M1 Leicestershire. Major roadworks continue with a contraflow between junctions 21 and 22, near Leicester.

● NORTH
M1 J47, Leeds, West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow, two lanes each way during peak-times.
M62 West Yorkshire. Lane closures for roadworks on the slip roads at the Lofthouse interchange (with the M1) mean regular delays.
M6 Cheshire. Major widening work near the Thelwall viaduct, between J20 and J21.
A1M County Durham. Contraflow near Durham between the Carville and Blind Lane interchanges, with lane restrictions both ways.

● WALES
M4 J23-J24 Gwent (Magor-Newport East). Widening work continues in connection with the second Severn crossing.
A449 and A40 Gwent. Major works between Newport and Monmouth, with much of the route down to a single lane.
A40 Gwent. Major roadworks on Hereford Road, Abergavenny expected to cause delays.

● A548 Chwyd. Major roadworks and a contraflow between Oakenholt and Kelsterton.

● SCOTLAND
A77 Glasgow. Major roadworks at the junction of Eglinton Street, Pollokshaws Road and Cavendish Street cause regular delays.

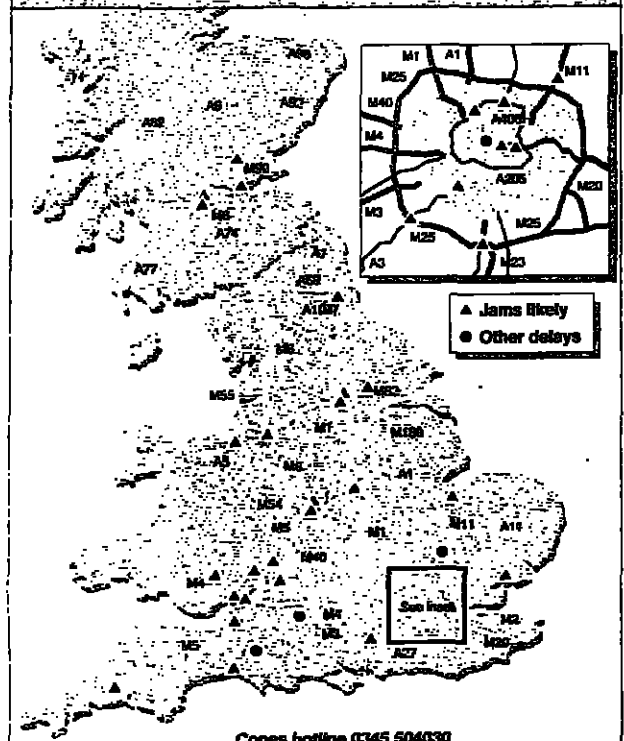
● M90 Tayside. Lane closures in both directions for roadworks at J10 (Frlarton Bridge).

● M90 Fife. Major roadworks begin on October 16 with a contraflow between junctions 1 and 2 (Admiralty-Masterston).

● NORTHERN IRELAND
A42 County Antrim. Major roadworks and temporary traffic lights at Galloway.

● County Tyrone. Roadworks on the Omagh bypass at the junction with Derry Road and Drumquin Road will slow traffic.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



You know what it says in the warranty book, but what does it mean? That's where the arguments start

A cylinder headbanger

Well, what do you know? Two weeks ago I wrote a warning about warranties. Now comes a perfect example of why the warranties that are supposed to offer peace of mind ought to come with a health warning: buyer beware.

My wife's car went in for a routine service last week, during which the garage discovered that the brakes needed overhauling. When the work was finished, my wife was presented with a bill for £303 (including the service), but at that stage the garage had not realised the car was under warranty. The warranty book was produced and the garage said they would be in touch.

Among the items that had been replaced were the rear brake cylinders. In the warranty book there is a clear statement that the cylinders are covered. Two days later the garage rang to say that, "as an act of goodwill", the warranty company had agreed to pay for one of the cylinders.

Given that my warning about warranties was scarcely dry on this

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

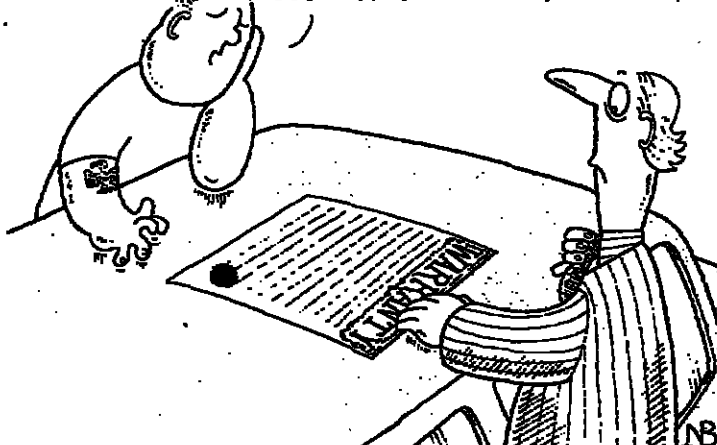


Peter Barnard

page, my intervention seemed appropriate. I explained to the garage that, as Christmas was still far away, we weren't too bothered about goodwill. As an act of ill will, we were holding out for what the warranty book said it would pay for.

You may recall that when I first wrote about this subject I said that warranties tend to mean exactly what they say. By some strange logic, the warranty company in my wife's case had decided that "brake

AND, 'AS AN ACT OF GOODWILL', I SHALL RIP OFF ONLY ONE OF YOUR LEGS



cylinders" in their little booklet meant "complete failure of brake cylinders". But the only thing to be done about a leaking brake cylinder is to replace it: you cannot wrap the thing in clingfilm. A leaking brake cylinder, by definition, has failed.

I was heartened in this stance by the garage's service manager, who was as mystified as I was by a warranty that said one thing but meant something else. This was further evidence that garages are as

inconvenienced by wishy-washy warranty companies as are their customers.

After some delay, the garage rang. The warranty company had agreed to pay for both brake cylinders. Whether this was a doubling of their goodwill or the crumbling of their resolve, I know not. But my wife's bill was reduced from £303 to £184.

What annoys me is that some customers, especially those with a less sympathetic garage, would have

paid out in the first place. What I hope this case shows is that persistence usually pays off.

ANYONE from the London area who spent a holiday, or even a long weekend, in Devon and Cornwall this summer will have faced the classic dilemma: hefty mileage and boring hours on the M4 and M5 or a much more pleasant journey down the M3, A303 and A30. The problem with the latter is the stretch from Honiton to Exeter, which consists of a throwback road designed for stagecoaches.

Years ago, a dual carriageway was announced. Naturally, it has yet to be built because the usual mob of objectors has come out of the woodwork. Their tactic has changed — they claim to want a new road, but not this one — but the outcome is the same: more delay.

The issue is not just about roads. It is also about jobs in the British tourist industry, hit by everything from uncertain weather to the claim that one can get to the Costa del Sol faster than one can reach St Ives. This comparison always accounts for road delays but never includes flight delays, but mud tends to stick.

Will the Honiton-Exeter dual carriageway be ready for next year? Nope. Do the protesters give a toss? Nope. Have they taken account of all the pollution from extra fuel burnt on the longer route? Nope.

Fewer motorists fix their own cars — but demand the best from those who do the job for them, says Alan Copps

Decline and fall of self-service

The day of the do-it-yourself mechanic is rapidly passing as cars, and especially engines, grow in sophistication. Many drivers who might once have put their heads beneath the bonnet when faced with a fault now concede that the technology of the average car is beyond their powers.

But, as well as making them more reliant on garages, the complexity of modern vehicles is making drivers more demanding of those who service their cars. These are the conclusions of a survey carried out for Bosch, one of the leading companies providing the high-tech diagnostic equipment required to trace faults in modern electronically-managed engines. The survey was aimed principally at the owners of independent garages, to whom Bosch markets its equipment, but it casts interesting light on the changing attitudes of British drivers.

According to the survey, only 8 per cent of drivers now put do-it-yourself servicing as a first option, 20 per cent would turn to a friend or acquaintance with mechanical knowledge, 11 per cent to a garage approved by a component manufacturer, 27 per cent to an independent garage and 34 per cent to a franchised dealer. More than a third of those questioned said they already check that a garage of any kind has suitable diagnostic equipment before entrusting their car to it.

But although such a large number said that a dealer with a manufacturer's franchise would be their first choice, in answer to another question a majority of motorists — 55 per cent — said they thought they would get better service from an independent workshop. This apparent discrepancy between perceived value and actual choice is probably due



History man: The high technology under the bonnet is beyond the average owner, who expects garages to have suitable diagnostic equipment

to the increasing insistence of manufacturers that warranties, on both new and used cars, only remain valid if vehicles are serviced by franchised dealers. That demand is seen as a major threat to the future of the small garage.

The survey, carried out for Bosch by NOP, did not address that issue, but Bosch says the answers suggest that work standards in independent garages — once perceived as the back street cowboys of the industry — have greatly improved during the last decade. In fact the replies indicate that consumers have more faith in the future of the independent garage than those who are directly involved in the industry.

When independent garage owners were asked the same series of questions, 58 per cent said they thought a franchised dealer would be the consumer's first choice.

Andrew Miles, marketing manager of Bosch automotive division, concludes: "While three-year warranties and the power of the franchise will continue to make finding new business difficult, it is the industry's own lack of willingness to take advantage of the opportunities currently available, and its own crisis of confidence, that is the biggest threat to its future."

The independent workshop sector can survive well into the next century, but it will require a willingness to invest in technology and people.

The Bosch survey supports the Great British Motorist survey published by the AA in 1992. That found that the number of motorists who did their own servicing fell from 18 to 8 per cent between 1981 and 1991. This summer the AA

warned drivers to read the small print of warranties carefully to check both the manufacturer's schedule of servicing and whether they are obliged to have their cars serviced at a franchised garage.

There is evidence that some motorists fear that servicing by a franchise is too expensive for them, they know they can't do it themselves and thus they ignore it until a breakdown obliges them to call out the AA.

Luke Bosdet, the AA's technical spokesman, said: "It's really a matter of perceptions. Motorists faced with the demands of warranties feel their hands are tied and that they have lost control over the maintenance of their vehicles. But the pay-off comes in terms of reliability. In theory, cars should be less prone to breaking down, but they still require frequent checks on the basics, such as the levels of fluids and

tyre wear etc. If this is done by a franchised dealer, the garage should have the right equipment to monitor engine performance at the same time and spot any major problems."

"Our advice to drivers is to check the terms of their warranty and stick to them."

Both surveys underline the importance of trust between drivers and the garages that service their vehicles, a factor

which has become an increasing concern of motorists as technology has become more complex.

Again the perceptions of the independent garage owner were at odds with those of the driver. Forty six per cent of the independents thought that they were not trusted by drivers. When drivers were asked the same question, this figure dropped to 35 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Top to tow

VAUXHALL'S new Vectra has won the title of top tow-car a week before it appears in the showrooms. The Caravan Club chose the Vectra 2.0i GLS while best diesel was the Rover 620SDi and best super mini the Volkswagen Polo 1.6GL. The Hyundai Sonata V6 was the surprising winner of the £16,501-£22,000 category. The Ford Galaxy 2.8GLX won the MPV class.

Round 'em up

TRY TO imagine a British car boss — all grey suits and Rotary Club badges — doing this: Ross Roberts, a Ford vice-president in the US, took to faded jeans and buckskins to ride in the Mesquite Rodeo in Texas to introduce the company's new pick-up. Apparently, he once worked as a rodeo rider. Ian McAllister, Ford of Britain's chairman, at a point-to-point next for the launch of the new Fiesta?

Goodwood video

SIXTY thousand people saw the real thing, but a video celebrating this year's Goodwood Festival is now available, featuring interviews with legendary drivers such as John Surtees, Dan Gurney, Derek Bell and Phil Hill and stars such as Nick Mason, Pink Floyd's drummer, a fanatical car collector. Available from Sonoptics Communications, Rosier Farm, Coolham Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9DE, price £12.99 plus £1 postage and packing.

Skoda hath charms

STRESSED? Not with Skoda's Stress Kit to soothe the troubled breasts of Britain's motorists. The kit advises loss of bunched muscles and finger exercising, while the voice of Dr David Lewis calms on a cassette. There is even a Stressometer so that drivers can measure the extent of their rage before they set off. The angry, or even slightly upset, should ring 0345-745745 for their free kit.

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Portrait of the Ferrari

Ferrari, with victory for Guichet and Vaccarella and John Surtees in third place in the works 330P.

Considering the contrast in national characters, the British have enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with Ferrari, right back to the earliest days when Enzo Ferrari was struggling to establish his team. Mike Hawthorn, the first British Formula One world champion, was one of Enzo's favourite drivers.

Surtees enjoyed one of the most successful periods for the Italian carmaker when the

Prancing Horse kicked aside all challenges in the Sixties, but Tony Brooks and Peter Collins also took the wheel.

For all the victories, tragedy has haunted the team. Lorenzo Bandini, another Ferrari favourite, was killed at the 1967 Monaco Grand Prix while Englishman Michael Parkes smashed both his legs in a horrific accident in 1967.

But danger is part of the thrill of speed, and Goddard's photographs and Nye's words present a spellbinding tour of one of the great ages of wheel-to-wheel racing. The book is designed as a luxurious keepsake: one of the 1,000 cloth-bound limited editions costs about £300; 100 leather-bound numbered editions, signed by Goddard and Nye, will be closer to £1,000.

Ferrari in Camera is published by Palawan Press, London.

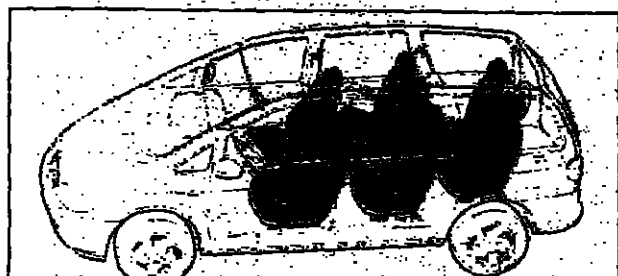
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A galactic
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هاتف الامم

The Ford Galaxy brings a US-style people-mover to Britain. Kevin Eason finds plenty of room for admiration

A galactic journey into space



Seventh heaven: the seats tip, swivel or can be taken out

In the beginning was the humble saloon. And it was any colour so long as it was black. And Henry Ford did look on his work and see that it was good. And he created the station wagon... and a paradise of colours.

The station wagon began the hatchback and the saloon began the coupé, but in the age when Ford's offspring have prospered comes a new generation: the people-carrier.

Ford's Galaxy is among the plethora of vehicles charting new territory in Europe, trying to entice buyers away from big estates and bulky off-roaders and into something built for the family that wants to combine leisure driving with day-to-day commuting.

For the school run, there is the option of seven seats to take the family brood and next door's children too, belted up in comfort and safety. For the weekend, simply take out unwanted seats, plug in a portable fridge and an interior bike rack and off you go to the wilderness.

The Galaxy means flexible motoring. Once you buy a saloon, that is it — you are pinned into that four-door/five-seat configuration forever. An estate might have more room and, with seats folded, can offer a substantial loading space in some models.

Off-roaders look good and, looking down on traffic, but they are big, heavy, thirsty for fuel and usually have little or no boot room, despite their vast bulk.

But a Galaxy also allows drivers a panoramic view over a line of cars, is easy to look after and drives like a large car — a series of reasons for many to think about switching to a vehicle generically known as a

multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) — or, to put it more simply, a people-mover.

Ford did not arrive at the Galaxy by accident, for the people-mover has been popular in America for years. To confirm that the trend was due to cross the Atlantic, Ford surveyed 49,000 motorists to find out what they wanted, and discovered that the Galaxy would not just appeal to drivers with big families.

Retired drivers wanted something to carry their grandchildren around in at weekends, while Thirtysomething-with-no-kids wanted the freedom of packing a vehicle as driveable as a car with their cycles and luggage to cruise motorways to a weekend holiday spot.

Then there were the couples with enough children to start a scout troop and nowhere to put them in a conventional saloon or even four-wheel-drive vehicle with five seats.

The Galaxy, even fitted with seven seats, is surprisingly only as long as a Mondeo, but a few minutes behind the wheel will convince drivers that they are in an inflated space rather than a van. The Galaxy is a multi-story car park that takes a few hours to submerge up courage in heavy traffic, but drivers soon learn that it will slide in and out of gaps just as easily as a regular saloon; better, in fact, because the driver sits so high.

With a choice of 2-litre and 2.8-litre petrol engines, there is plenty of power aboard so that even a full load of people and luggage means the Galaxy will not be struggling on the



Ultimate flexibility: Smooth and silent on the motorway, the Galaxy is surprisingly only as long as the Mondeo and slides in and out of city traffic as easily as a regular saloon

FORD GALAXY 2.0 GLX

Price: £17,750.

Engine: Ford four-cylinder, twin-cam, eight-valve 2-litre petrol engine developing 115 brake horse power through five-speed manual transmission to front-wheel-drive.

Performance: 0 to 60mph in 12.1 seconds, top speed 110mph, fuel consumption of 28.5 miles on average to the gallon of unleaded.

Insurance group: 11.

Equipment: Electric-powered tilt and slide sunroof, Ford RDS (Radio Data System) radio and stereo cassette, electric door mirrors, remote electronic locking system with alarm and engine immobiliser, plus seven seats which can be folded, moved around the cabin or removed. Extras include fridge and cycle racks.

motorway or long hills. There is also a 1.9-litre turbo-diesel that offers the sort of frugality that makes many a family man, burdened with mortgages and Sainsbury's food bills, a happier motorist.

The motorway ride is sheer pleasure because there is little intrusive noise from wind, engine or tyres. Combine that with a stereo system — controlled from an easy-to-use steering column handle — and the whole family can sing-along a Ford happily mile after mile, while driving is

simple, the five-speed gear throw adapted from the Mondeo is just as easy to use. The seats flip and swivel, the backs turning into airline-style food trays with cup-holders so that the rear can become a mobile dining room instead of straightforward transporter.

The Galaxy is the ultimate flexible four wheels on the road: a load carrier for the DIY fanatic, the school-run vehicle, the executive car, the motorway cruiser, or the vehicle that tugs up and down mountains for a weekend jaunt.

I'm pickin' up good directions... now drivers know exactly where they are

THE FIRST car to be offered with on-board electronic navigation as standard is to be launched next week at the London Motor Show, Vaughan Freeman writes.

Routefinder will tell drivers of Mitsubishi's Carisma saloon exactly which turning to take, which motorway junction leads to their destination, how long their journey might take and how much it will cost.

Within five years a third of all new cars in Europe will be fitted with some sort of navigation system using small screens and electronic voices. European Geographic Technologies (EGT), which has just negotiated with Ordnance Survey to load maps on to compact discs and mini information cassettes for such systems in Britain.

For drivers with a hatred of dual carriageways, Routefinder can supply a scenic route from A to B, or even one that avoids low bridges. If the chosen route is jammed, alternatives are offered at the touch of a button from the pocket-sized unit.

Mitsubishi, offering Routefinder as standard fit on the 1.8 Carisma and as an option on the 1.6, believes it will prove a useful selling point especially to company car drivers.



Carin: Better than a Paris taxi driver

Carin relies on space technology and an array of computers to fix a driver's position within 20 metres anywhere in the world, and on a voice box to advise on the next turning, distance to destination, and to update the route should the driver take a wrong turn.

TESTED in the crawling grid-lock that is midday London traffic, Carin effortlessly guided our Range Rover from outside Mossman's restaurant in West Halkin Street SW1, to Paulston Square off the Kings Road, and back. It was unobtrusive and simple to use. A clear and easy-to-read arrow appears on a tiny screen telling whether to go left, right or straight ahead, backed up by the voice.

A large-scale launch of Carin in Britain is now awaiting the availability of suitable compact disc-based maps, which EGT expects to introduce next year covering London, the South East and the Midlands, then most of the rest of Britain by 1997.

When it arrives, the highly sophisticated Carin is likely to cost several thousand pounds, compared to the more modest £200 for Routefinder, but both should save time, fuel and stress for users.

NEXT WEEK

See the show and win a Galaxy

NEXT WEEK's issue of CAR 95 will be devoted to one of the most exciting London Motor Shows for many years. As well as carrying the entry form for our contest to win a Ford Galaxy, it will offer competitions and opportunities for readers who want to visit the show and the issue itself will act as a voucher for cut-price entry on a Times readers' evening on Monday, October 23. Unlike some other offers, readers of CAR 95 do not need to belong to a club to take advantage of these opportunities.

We will offer our own guide to the most exciting stands at the show and to the transport trends which are emerging from the large number of new cars launched this year, many of which will be seen by a wider public for the first time at Earls Court.

The show opens for Press Day on Wednesday and Preview Day, for which tickets carry a premium price of £14, on Thursday. On Friday, the first day that the show is open to the general public, CAR 95 will be available, a day earlier than usual, outside Earls Court and on selected stands at the show. It will contain a voucher for £2 off the normal admission price of £6 valid from 5pm-9pm on October 23. Readers taking up this offer will also be entitled to a free copy of Complete Car magazine by taking along their copy of CAR 95 to the magazine's stand.

This is a show no motoring

enthusiast or prospective car buyer should miss. More than 50 new models will be shown by the 45 makers exhibiting, who represent more than 99 per cent of the vehicles sold in the British market. Highlights will include an extraordinary range of new sports cars from makers across the world including the sensational MG, the Lotus Elise and Ferrari's stunning F50.

The show also offers visitors an unprecedented opportunity to compare the range of multi-purpose vehicles — American-style people-movers — that have been launched this year, including the Galaxy, Peugeot 806, Honda Shuttle, Citroën Synergie, Chrysler Voyager and Fiat Ulysse.

● The show is open from 9.30am until 7.30pm from Thursday to Sunday and on Saturday October 28. On Sunday October 29 it is open from 9.30am until 6pm. From Monday to Friday the following week it is open from 9.30am until 9pm. ● Ticket prices: At the door: Preview Day, all-day £14; October 20-29, all-day, adults £9, OAP/child £5; after 5pm, adults £6, OAP/child £5. Advance booking (closes to-day): Preview Day, £14, October 20-29, all-day, adults £7, OAP/child £4. Earls Court Box Office: 0171-244 0338.

The show is organised by PEO Events in association with the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and with the co-operation of the Retail Motor Industry Federation.

WE JUDGE. THEY DREAD.

At the London Motor Show this year, CAR Magazine will be presenting a series of 11 new awards. Because we're independent, they're going to be controversial. In fact, one is for the Most disappointing Car of the Year. So there might be tears as well as cheers. Read the November issue of CAR Magazine and visit our stand at London Motor Show to have your opinions confirmed. Or confounded.

The London Motor Show, Earls Court, 19th - 29th October 1995

CAR MAGAZINE DRIVING OPINION

November issue of CAR Magazine out now.



Your chance to win the new Galaxy GLX

THE FORD GALAXY is the newest concept in modern motoring and The Times, in association with Ford, is giving you the chance to win the GLX.

All you have to do to win the seven-seater Galaxy GLX 2.0i (rrp £18,000) is collect five out of seven tokens to be printed in The Times daily until Saturday, October 21.

The competition closes on Tuesday, November 21, 1995. The winner will be drawn at random from all entries received by that date.

If you want to see the car it will be on display on stand P6 at the London Motor Show, Earls Court, October 18-29. If you cannot get to

the show, ring the Ford Information Service 0345 833 833 and you will be sent information on the Galaxy.

You may enter as many times as you wish but all entries must be on the official application form and sent to: The Times/Galaxy Competition, 30, Boulevard St., London EC3R 4NG. Times competition rules apply.



FORD GALAXY PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM

1. I enclose five tokens from The Times and wish to enter the draw.		2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (6-8 copies) during the week?	
Name: _____ First Name: _____		3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?	
Surname: _____		4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?	
Address: _____		5. Which of the following age groups do you fall into?	
Postcode: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> 15-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 <input type="checkbox"/> 65+	
6. Please tick the box if you are a member of a club or organisation that is a member of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMA) or the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMA) or the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMA).			

Stuart Birch drives Britain's latest fire engine, a highly sophisticated descendant in a long history

Sabre at the cutting edge

It is a moment of supreme power. A fire engine, aluminium ladders glinting in the sun, blue lights flashing, siren wailing, parts city traffic like a mechanical Moses. Mere cars cringe in the gutter as the great red Leviathan thunders past on a wave of decibels.

Whatever the emergency, the crew must be equipped to tackle it, for the fire engine has many roles as a high-speed sophisticated rescue vehicle, carrying enough equipment to stock a hardware store — an enormous technological leap from the first fire engine of the 18th century, which was little more than a pump on wheels. Then, teams of men pumping for all they were worth could only manage to squirt a jet of water 80 feet.

Now a fire tender has to be equipped to deal with complex blazes involving chemicals or explosive materials, so the development of the modern fire tender over the past 200 years has been forced to accelerate rapidly in recent times. As well as an enormous water tank and hundreds of feet of hoses, its perpendicular sides can be opened up to reveal trays of tools, cutting equipment, ropes and esoteric gadgets.

Fitting all this into a vehicle that must have rapid performance, responsive but safe roadholding, total reliability and a 15-year ser-

vice life is hardly the easiest of design tasks. But that is what the fire engine makers must do.

Dennis is the oldest of them in Britain. Founded 100 years ago, it delivered the country's first motor driven fire engine to Bradford in 1908 and today supplies 42 per cent of all local authority fire engines in the UK. The company's latest vehicle, the Sabre, with powerful turbo-diesel engine, anti-lock brakes and skid control costs about £100,000 without equipment, up to £150,000 with all the goodies.

Following a management buy-out in 1989, Dennis has seen its output triple. It designs and builds the fire engine chassis and stainless steel and glass fibre cabs, and a separate company, John Dennis Coachbuilders, is among those that manufacture and fit the mainly aluminium rear bodywork and equipment.

John Dennis, managing director and grandson of the founder, explains: "Everything has to be stored safely in compliance with a European Union directive. Drop-down trays with lighter objects are above, heavy stuff down below, so



Fire alarm: Armed with the Sabre, the Wiltshire brigade races off on another rescue mission

that firemen will not be injured moving or stowing equipment." He rolled up the covers on the flanks of a Sabre to display neatly stacked and labelled drawers with compartments for hand cutters,

pickaxes, sledge hammers, wrenches and crowbars. In another set were beaters for heath fires, big forks to deal with burning hay and straw and brooms, because firemen often clear up afterwards.

Below was a portable pump and two hefty fire extinguishers; above, controls for the mast floodlights plus portable lighting with tripods. At the rear of the vehicle were 14 hoses in 100-foot lengths, divided

between offside and nearside. Above were high-pressure hoses, used for tackling nine in ten fires. At the back a "flake hose", which attaches to a hydrant, unravels behind a moving Sabre. There is equipment for tackling chimney fires and trays carrying hydrant adaptors, fluorescent waistcoats, sand to absorb oil or fuel, and hydraulic rescue equipment including spreaders and rams. There is a manual winch, and a giant fan to disperse smoke or spread foam.

Tucked away behind and below all this is the 400-gallon water tank (most domestic systems have between 50 and 70) with baffles to stop it slopping around too much. Full, it weighs 4,000lbs.

The Sabre's roomy cab has a touch of Star Trek. Rechargeable torches are plugged in everywhere. There is a computer, sophisticated radio equipment and engine and systems instruments.

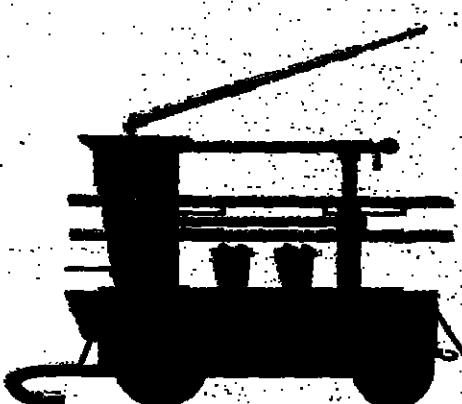
On the roof are blue lights and there is a choice of sirens — from melodious to wailing — while on the back are three easily accessible ladders, the main one 46 feet long. Carrying all this, 29 gallons of

fuel and six crew, the Sabre weighs up to 13 tons, yet it has to be quick, nimble — and safe. Clive Peters, Dennis's test driver, is used to showing it off to customers from China, eastern Europe, the Far East, Middle East and Europe — and winning orders. One contest with a rival manufacturer was so convincing that Peters was back at base drinking tea by the time his competitor returned.

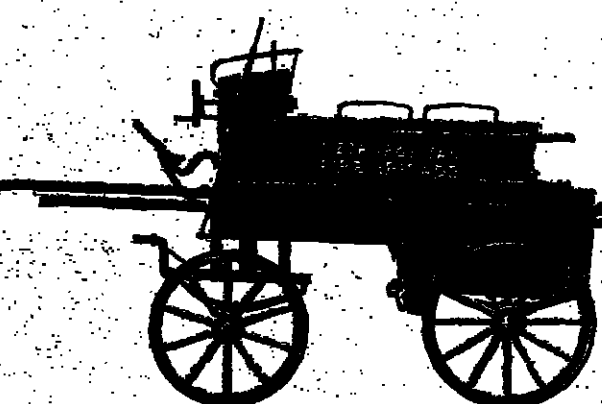
Under his guidance, I got the chance to take 13 tons of gleaming red fire engine on a pretend emergency around the Chobham military test track. The steering was surprisingly responsive, the five-speed automatic gearbox slick and smooth, and the roadholding — despite the mobile hardware store and the mini-lake in the back — convincingly secure, as the tyres howled on a "snake" test, the road rising and falling with odd cambers. The Sabre went up one in four hill like an elevator.

A quick burst on the siren and I was a little boy in his element. But the Sabre is not a toy. So next time you hear a Sabre cutting through the traffic behind you, move over quickly. If you don't, your rear-view mirror will be filled with the word SNIFFED — Dennis in reverse — and that's what you will have done if you delay the parting of its way.

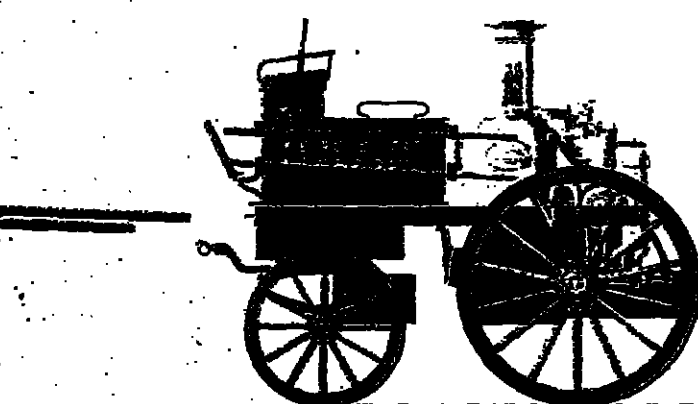
ILLUSTRATIONS: GEOFFREY SIMS/TONY GARRETT



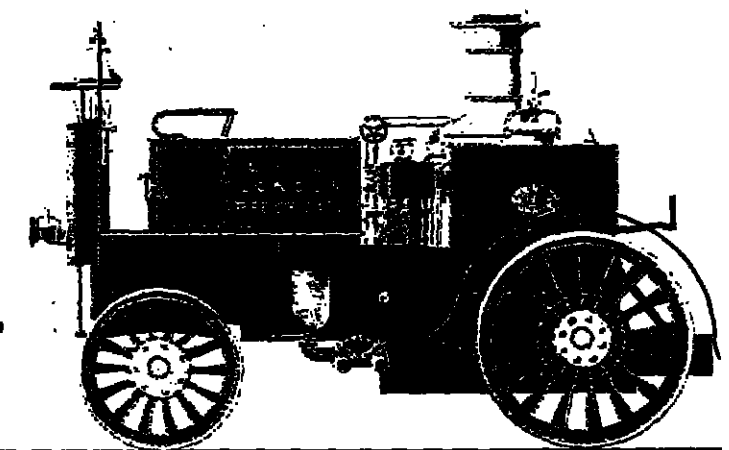
1 Newsham's 1721 manual pump



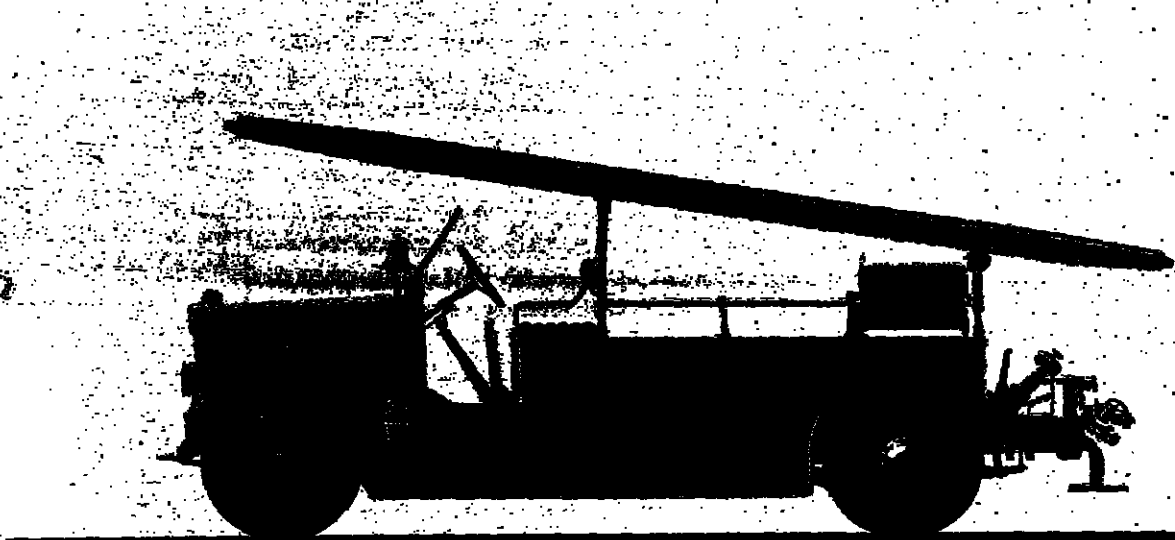
2 Shand Mason engine from the 1800s



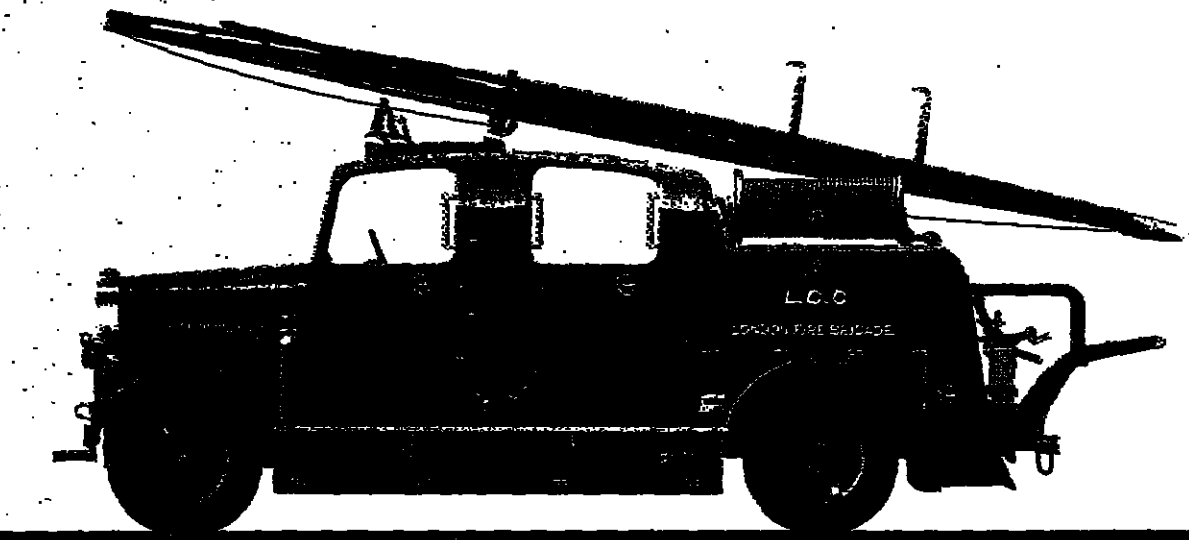
3 Merryweather, mid-19th century



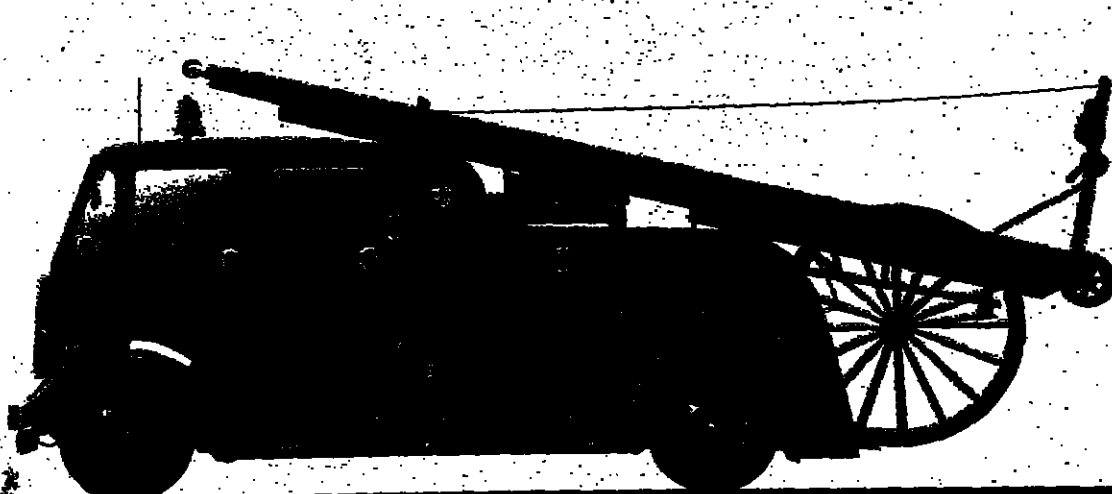
4 The 1900 Merryweather Fire King



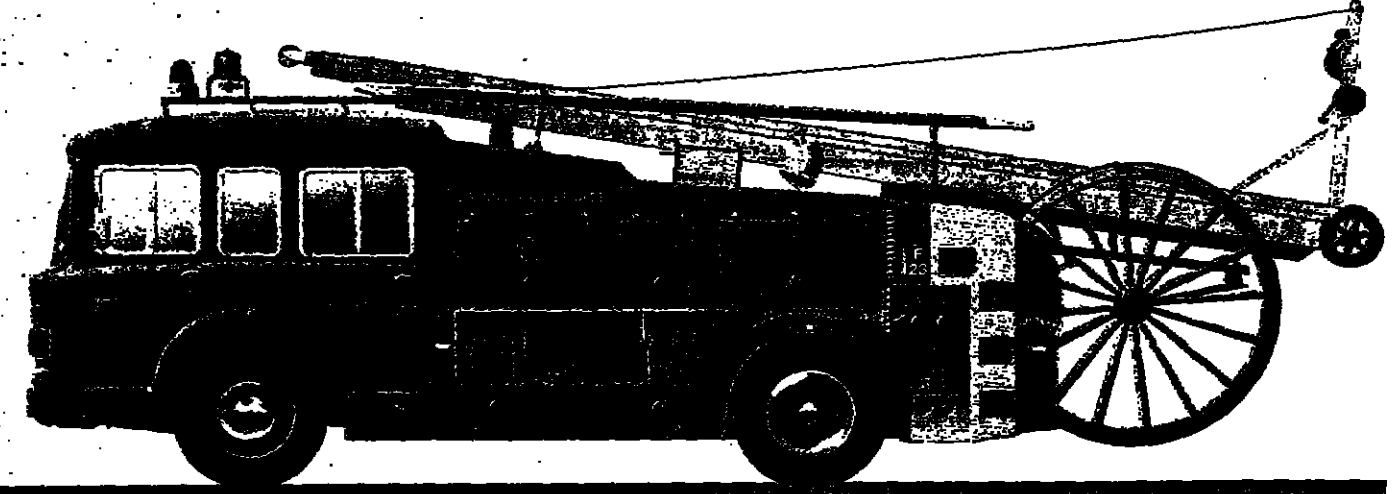
5 Dennis Brothers' "Braidwood" engine of the 1920s



6 The 1940 Leyland FKT — the crew were now safely inside



7 The 1950 timber-framed Merryweather/AEC diesel-driven appliance



8 The 1974 ERF supplied to the London Fire Brigade

Engines of change throughout 270 years of fire alarms

1 THE NEWSHAM manual pump, made by Richard Newsham from 1721 and in use for almost a century, was the basis for the first purpose-built fire engines in Great Britain. The design of the pumping mechanism enabled the top-mounted spout to direct water on to a fire in a steady stream — a factor just as important today in putting out a blaze. Newsham Manual pumps were capable of throwing a jet up to 80 feet, a big step forward from buckets or "squirts" which operated like a giant syringe, sucking in water, then spewing it out, and could pump 36 gallons a minute — with plenty of effort from the crew of at least six people, who also had to pull and push it to the scene.

2 IN THE early 19th century, the design of manual fire engines slowly improved, with larger and horse-drawn versions appearing. The manual horse-drawn engine was typical of the type produced by various companies, such as Merryweather, Hadley, Simpkin &

Lott, Shand Mason and others. As many as 22 volunteers — 11 on each side — would pump the levers up and down for payment of a coin of the Realm... or pints of ale. Beer was clearly preferred, with the cry of "Ale, more ale!" used to inspire faster pumping, up to 150 gallons a minute. If the ale supplies dried up, so did the pumping.

3 STEAM-POWERED, horse-drawn fire engines appeared in 1829, and by the early 1860s great interest was being shown by many infant brigades. Shand Mason and Merryweather produced the majority of steam-powered fire engines, which could pump up to 350 gallons a minute. All were built to the "Braidwood" pattern, in which the firemen sat on either side facing outwards on their way to a fire. This design of bodywork also applied to horse-drawn manual fire engines of the period, the style named after its designer, James Braidwood, superintendent of the London Fire Engine Establishment from 1833 to 1861. Horse-drawn



9 Dennis's Sabre, state-of-the-art in a line of British fire-fighting that stretches back to 1721

steam fire engines were built up to about 1910, but some were still in use at the outbreak of the Second World War in rural areas.

4 IN 1900, Merryweather produced the first self-propelled fire engine in Britain, known as the Fire King. By utilising the steam equipment for the fire pump to drive the back wheels via chains, and a steering system on the front axle, a totally self-contained unit was possible. The self-propelled steamer was short-lived, however, being overtaken by the simpler, cleaner internal combustion en-

gine. London Fire Brigade had many Fire Kings built, but unfortunately no examples have survived.

5 DENNIS Brothers of Guildford, Surrey, produced their first fire engine in 1908 after a few years of making motor cars. By the early 1920s, the familiar shape had appeared, still using the Braidwood style of bodywork to seat a crew of six, with the pumps fitted either to the rear (as shown) or midships under the driver's seat. A water tank of at least 60 gallons was also fitted, with the machine now capable of pumping 1,000 gallons a

minute. The style is typical of most makes of fire engine, although earlier models had solid tyres, pneumatics appearing in the late 1920s. Even early petrol-engined fire engines were capable of a good turn of speed, and 50mph could be easily reached by most 1930s versions. Dennis produced the last open fire engines for use by British brigades 50 years ago.

6 THE 1940 Leyland FKT, made for the London Fire Brigade, showed how priorities changed to take account of the safety of the crew. Leyland Motors supplied its

first fire engine to Dublin in 1910, but by the middle of the century safety of the crew on the way to blazes was causing concern because firemen had been thrown off open engines and killed. The "limousine" style appeared in the mid-1930s, ensuring more safety — and a dry ride — and that enclosed style remains. The design was familiar throughout the 1950s, remaining in service until the mid-1960s. A hefty six-cylinder petrol engine was used to drive the vehicle to top speeds of 55mph and, when needed, the 1,000 gallon-a-minute fire pump.

7 DESIGNS of fire appliances (to give the correct title) changed radically after the Second World War, with Merryweather, of Greenwich, in conjunction with AEC, of Southall, London, making this dual-purpose model in 1950. The vehicle marked a change to diesel engines, but it took until 1978 for all fire brigades to change to diesel propulsion. The timber-framed bodywork was clad in aluminium sheeting, a large 1,000 gallon-a-minute fire pump was fitted, plus a 100-gallon water tank. There was also more room for bigger ladders, although the 50-foot wheeled escape shown here has its origins back in the horse-drawn era. The Merryweathers lasted well into the 1970s, but only three out of 114 made are known to have survived.

8 THE LATE 1960s saw ERF enter the market, supplying vehicles for about ten years. The 1974 version was typical of several batches supplied to London Fire Brigade as dual-purpose vehicles. The cab area and locker doors were glass fibre, the remainder timber and steel-framed clad in aluminium. A Godiva multi-pressure 1,000 gallon-a-minute pump, plus 300-gallon water tank, was fitted. A 50-foot wheeled escape is shown, but London dispensed with those in 1984 in favour of Angus Sacol 45-foot (13.5 metres) three-section aluminium ladders. These V8 diesel engined ERFs have only been phased out of service recently.

9 DENNIS celebrated its centenary this year with the Sabre. Now Dennis Specialist Vehicles, the company introduced the Sabre with a multi-pressure fire pump, high pressure hose reels and 400-gallon water tank. This purpose-built appliance with its Cummins turbo-charged diesel engine, Allison automatic gearbox, stainless steel cab and aluminium-framed bodywork can speed safely to an emergency at 60mph with full crew and enough gear to answer every need, from a crushed car or a chippan fire to a blaze in a tower block. It is a state-of-the-art vehicle... and a far cry from the Newsham manual of 1721.

MIKE HEBARD

After years of being mocked by the cynics, the Czech carmaker has upmarket plans for its centenary. Helen Mound reports

A dash of Skoda to celebrate

What do a Czechoslovakian bookseller, a bicycle manufacturer and King's Lynn in Norfolk have in common? The burden of 100 years' worth of bad Skoda jokes. The bookseller and cycle-maker founded the Czech car firm; the East Anglian city is where the cars were originally imported. It's now twinned with Mlada Boleslav, near Prague, where Skodas have been built for the past century.

In 1895 Vaclav Klement, the bookseller, and Vaclav Laurin, the cycle-maker, founded Skoda, producing bicycles and motorcycles. Since then, the business has grown to be one of the largest companies in the former Eastern bloc, with a daily output of 750 cars; its latest Felicia estate is a car very much in tune with the 1990s.

To celebrate its centenary, Skoda is building 1,000 special edition "Laurin & Klement" Felicias, 500 1.6-litre estates and 500 1.3-litre hatchbacks. Only 150 will come to the UK. Aside from the unique metallic paint, leather upholstery, heated seats and alloy wheels, the special edition heralds the launch of two new safety features in a Skoda: anti-lock brakes and driver's airbag.

In the late 1890s Laurin & Klement launched an innovative motorcycle which became the model for all modern bikes. It is claimed that as technical director Laurin spent many sleepless nights trying to figure out the best place to fit the engine in the bicycle's frame.

The duo swiftly extended their production to three-wheeled motorcycles, and in 1901 produced their first four-wheeled vehicle, the "voiturette". By 1911 Skoda was producing a highly respected, elegant

sports car, the Phaeton, which had an all-wood body with a veneer finish and a top speed of 50mph.

Before the 1940s, Laurin & Klement cars were popular on roads from Japan to Mexico, and the company had established subsidiaries in central Europe, Moscow and Rio de Janeiro. In 1933 Skoda launched a small saloon called the Type 420. A revolutionary design in its day, it formed the basis for many new models, but there was little innovation to come from the company for the next 60 years.

After the Second World War, political and economic isolation meant that Skoda lost contact with the world's automotive trends.

Since the 1940s it has built cars that although adored by loyal customers, were viewed with cynicism by outsiders. Today the company believes it can change the cynics' preconceived ideas, thanks to its acquisition by Volkswagen and the subsequent injection of DM60 million (£27 million) in 1991.

In the UK - Skoda's third biggest market after Germany and the Czech Republic - the company has already spent £5 million this year on a marketing campaign designed to pull its image away from the comedy prejudices.

Had Skoda waited one more year it might not have needed Volkswagen's money to modernise its products and image. In 1990, prior to the VW takeover and under the Czech government's old law of pooling industry profits, Skoda made just £16.25 profit on every new car sold; since 1992, when the government allowed industries to control their own profits, the firm has made more than £625 per car.

As Skoda's Czech press officer puts it: "Once the factories were



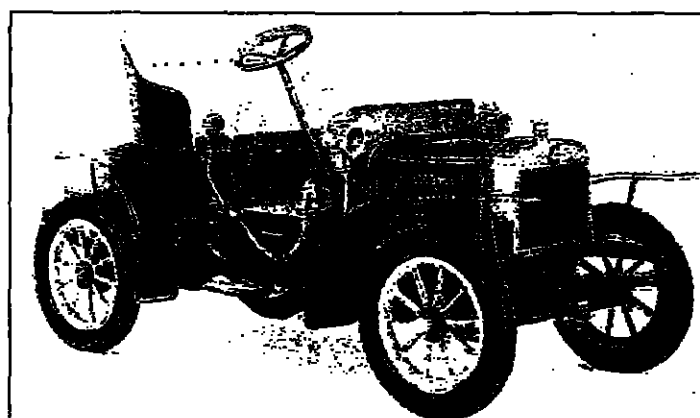
In from the cold: The 1959 Felicia, left, and its 1995 LXI version, which has been built with a new feeling of consideration and pride.

poor and the government was rich, now the factories are rich and the government is poor."

Nevertheless, after a crash course in modern car production from Volkswagen in the early 1990s and a quick overhaul of its current models, Skoda set about working on the Felicia, which was launched in hatchback form in June. That has been followed by the estate version, which will make its debut at the London Motor Show and go on sale in November.

Where the company does fall down in its loyalty ratings, however, is at home in the Czech Republic. Unlike Ford workers in Essex and Rover employees in Birmingham, Skoda employees find it financially impossible to become drivers of the marque. With an average wage of £250 a month, the new Felicia is well out of their reach, currently selling in its homeland for £5,250.

ROAD TEST: The 1.3-litre Skoda Felicia estate goes on sale Novem-



Pioneer on four wheels: Laurin and Klement's 1901 "voiturette"

ber 17. The 1.6 and 1.9 diesel models are to follow next Spring. Despite Skoda's obvious improved build quality, specification and even image, the 1.3-litre Czech engine in the new estate is to be avoided by all but the technically-unsympathetic. It's a small unit that sounds

strained at speeds above 50mph and pulling a heavily laden estate will mean it's likely to suffer more. The new 1.6 and 1.9 diesel Volkswagen units, however, are perfectly capable for the job of estate-lugging. The two trim levels, LXI and GLXi, offer all the stan-

dard features of a compact-class Western car: child locks, radio/cassette player and rear seats that split 60/40. The GLXi also benefits from central locking and a sunroof.

Inside the Felicia estate, the effects of VW's investment are clear. The switchgear is stylish and solid, the seat trims smart and hardwearing. A new feeling of consideration and pride has gone into building these cars.

Prices for the Felicia estate will not be confirmed until next week at motor show, but they are expected to compare favourably with the Ford Escort estate's base price of £10,760 and the Citroën ZX estate's £10,615. The new Felicia is a very convincing car in the mid-range market. Only the naive would laugh at today's Skodas. Engine: Four-cylinder, 1.3-litre/68 bhp, 1.6-litre/75 bhp, 1.9-litre diesel/64 bhp. Transmission: five-speed manual. Performance: Max 90mph (1.3 litre), 100mph (1.6). Economy: urban cycle 39.8mpg (1.3). Price: about £9,000.

MG row settled by Rover

ROVER has settled the row that has split two of Britain's car clubs vying for members among owners of the new MGF sports car.

The company was recommending free membership of the MG Car Club, angering officials of the 50,000-strong MG Owners' Club, the world's biggest single marque organisation.

Rochester, secretary of the MG Owners', said that the decision showed "blatant favouritism" to the rival MG Car Club. And Rover agreed. Denis Chick, the company spokesman said: "We always intended that membership of the MG Car Club would be offered. That was the car club which started with the company and, although it is smaller than the MG Owners', it is dedicated to the enthusiast, as it was right from the beginning."

"Owners of the MGF are free to choose whichever club they want, but we decided that the MG Car Club was the right one to offer them. If they want to take it up, that's fine. If they want to join another club, that's up to them."

THE DEFINITIVE statement of intent from Rover will be a blow to the MG Owners', but the MG Car Club defended itself yesterday in the face of Bentley's criticism.

Paddy Williams, editor of *Safety Park* magazine for the MG Car Club - membership 11,000 - said the club began in 1930, while John Thornley, former general manager of MG Cars, was president until his death last year.

"The dealer arrangement is entirely voluntary," he said, "and has not been imposed by Rover. MGF owners can make up their own minds. At the end of the day, MGF owners will settle on the club which best serves their interests - maybe even both, as is the case with the majority of our members."

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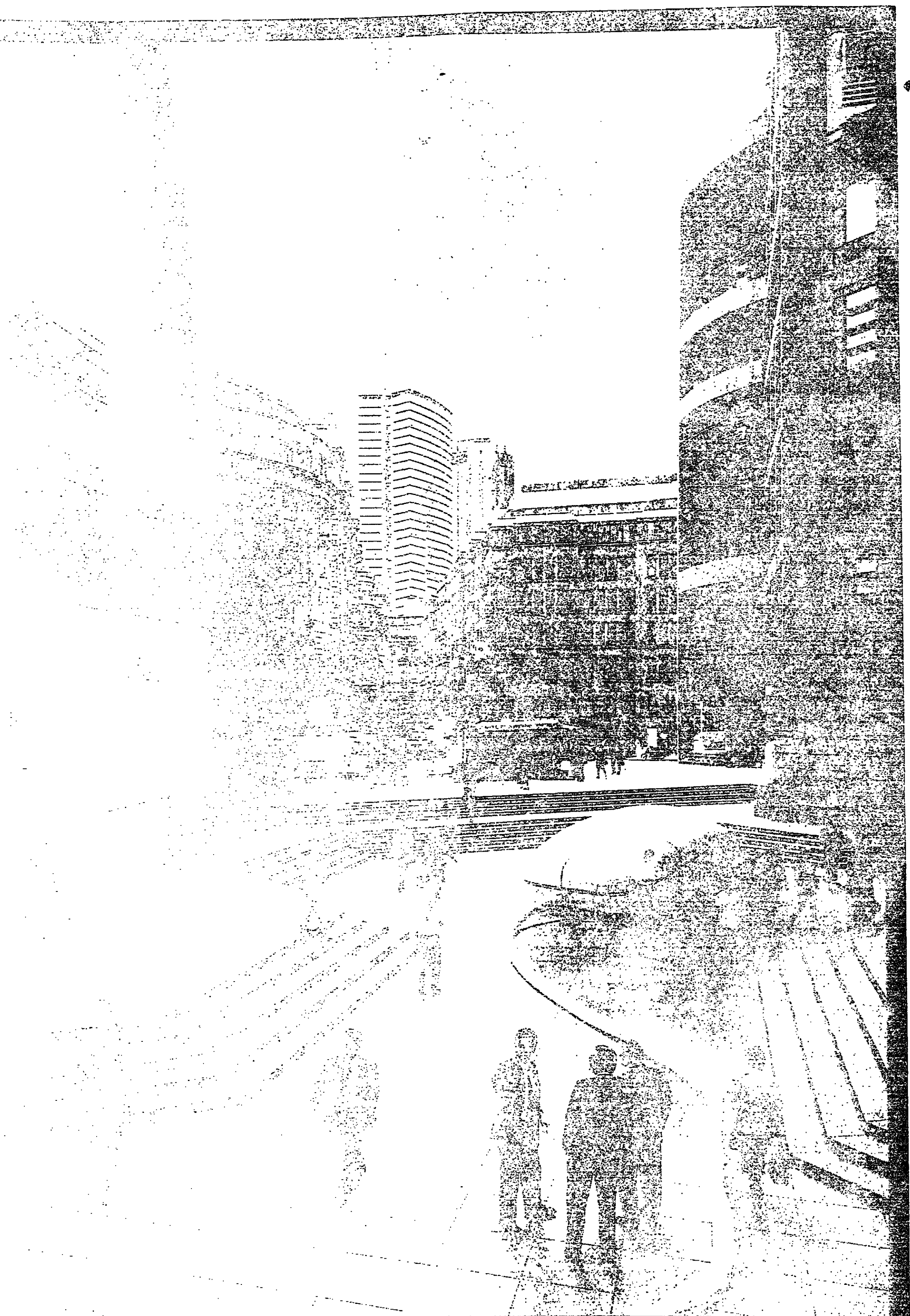
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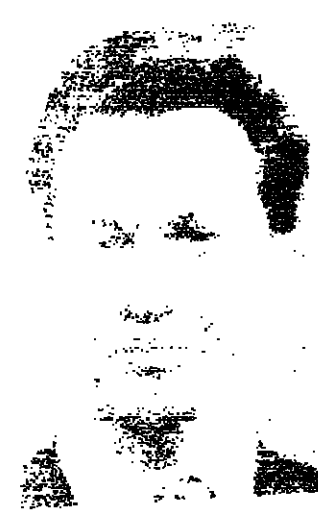
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